GLOBAL PINOY /A22

Edsa I heroine goes Down Under and rises again

OPINION /A13

Randy David: The rule of law is not strengthened when it is wielded like a weapon against our enemies.

OPINION /A12

Isagani Cruz: Censorship is anathema in a free society. Apprehensions regarding the exercise of the right to criticize should not be used as a license to impair it.

GIs get best jungle survival training in RP

By Volt Contreras

THEY GIVE AWAY COMPUTERS, SCHOOL SUPplies, clothes and toys to the local folk, and train Filipino soldiers in the use of the world's most sophisticated military hardware.

In return, the visiting US servicemen learn how to "barbecue a cobra" and set traps in the jungle, among other survival tactics.

GIS GET/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, October 22, 2006 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 316 P18 website: www.inq7.net

'Fisherman's Ring' too big for Benedict

VERONA, ITALY—POPE Benedict may have to have his ring tightened.

According to Italian media reports, the papal ring slipped off his finger twice while he was shaking hands with well-wishers as he left

FISHERMAN'S/ A18

Chief justice told: Lie low

Gonzalez says Panganiban should shun socials, pols, media

CATCHING THE BIG FRY
Night falls on a fisherman preparing his own improvised device to hopefully catch big shrimps along the coast in Parañaque City. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Armand N. Nocum and Michael Lim Ubac

CHIEF JUSTICE ARTEMIO Panganiban should not only steer clear of social occasions where politicians are present but also be wary of nosy reporters, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

Commenting on Panganiban's earlier disclosure of receiving "some pressure" from certain parties in connection with the case of the Malacañang-backed people's initiative pending in the Supreme Court, Gonzalez said the Chief Justice could avoid such pressure if he cut down on his socials.

"I don't think a Chief Justice should be attending socials, except those that are related to the functions of his office," Gonzalez said in a phone interview. "Anyway, he is going to retire. He should keep away from many social gatherings ... especially gatherings of politicians."

Panganiban is due to retire on Dec. 7.

Gonzalez added, however, that perhaps it would be hard to remove "the social animal" from the Chief Justice: "He has to circulate because he is being invited to be a speaker at many gatherings."

To the question of whether Panganiban should keep a low profile, Gonzalez said the latter should "not just comment on things like that," meaning the pressure supposedly being brought to bear on the high court.

"What was he trying to project there? That the court cannot be pressured. But the moment you say that, many different interpretations will come out," Gonzalez said.

As for reporters covering the courts, Gonzalez said with a laugh that Panganiban would do well to say "no comment than play into the hands of inquisitive reporters like those in the Inquirer."

In a serious vein, he added: "I think the Chief Justice will be better off not reacting to those things [such as Charter change]. It will invite a different kind of interpretation."

CHIEF/ A8

WHAT'S INSIDE

How Fil-Am actress Tia Carrere stole the show as finale performer at the annual Filipino American Library fundraiser in Los Angeles.

ENTERTAINMENT / G1

227 Muslim Mindanao villages light up on 'the night of power'

By Charlie C. Señase
Inquirer Mindanao

SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO—AS the lone fluorescent bulb flickered to life and lit up his modest house, farmer Soliven Kamsa was in seventh heaven.

"Thank God, we can now work even at night. When we were just depending on a kerosene lamp, we had to retire early after dinner," said Kamsa.

For housewife Amina Laki, the arrival of electricity in Barangay Sepaka in Datu Paglas town will mean hours of watching their favorite television and movie personalities for her star-struck family.

"Our plan is to save money so we can buy a TV set and watch our favorite stars," she said.

On the evening of Friday, as Muslims observed *Lailatul Qadr,* or "the night of power," some 6,810 households in at least 227 villages in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) became formally energized as solar and micro hydro-powered facilities were simultaneously switched on in ceremonies in Shariff Aguak led by Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan.

Lailatul Qadr, one of the holiest and blessed nights for the world's Muslims, occurs on one of the odd nights during the last 10 days of the Ramadan fasting month. On this night, the Prophet Mohammed was supposed to have received

227 MUSLIM/ A8

RP to unveil rare Christmas lanterns designed with gems in San Francisco to celebrate the centennial of Filipino migration to US.

SUNDAY BIZ / B1

Old Girls' Night out: Assumptionistas have a blast with their Velada; even if older, they were girlish in spirit and attitude.

LIFESTYLE / E2

Chef Daddy: The A-list speak in awed tones about the culinary prowess of the Pinoy chef to Sean "P. Diddy" Combs.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Joc-joc's bid for bail, habeas corpus rejected

By Philip C. Tubeza

A UNITED STATES FEDERAL DISTRICT court judge has rejected the plea for bail of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante, saying she lacked the jurisdiction to issue the writ.

Wisconsin Judge Lynn Adelman said the US Congress had stripped US district courts of "habeas jurisdiction to consider most immigration issues."

And since she did not have jurisdiction, she had "no inherent power to grant bail as a means of making the habeas remedy effective," Adelman said.

Lawyer H. Harry Roque Jr., who gave the INQUIRER a copy of the Wisconsin court ruling yesterday, said that the decision meant that Bolante was "running out of options."

"His fate now lies exclusively with the immigration court [in Chicago]," Roque said.

Bolante has been detained in a Wisconsin jail since his arrest at the Los Angeles International Airport on July 7 after the US Embassy in Manila canceled his US visa because of an arrest warrant issued against him by the Senate for failing to show up at the chamber's hearings on the alleged fertilizer fund scam.

The opposition alleged that Bolante

JOC-JOC'S/ A19

Billboards, bagoong, bookstores, Brad Pitt

COMMENTARY

By Arlene Babst-Vokey
Contributor

NINE YEARS AWAY FROM A city is enough time to see it with new eyes.

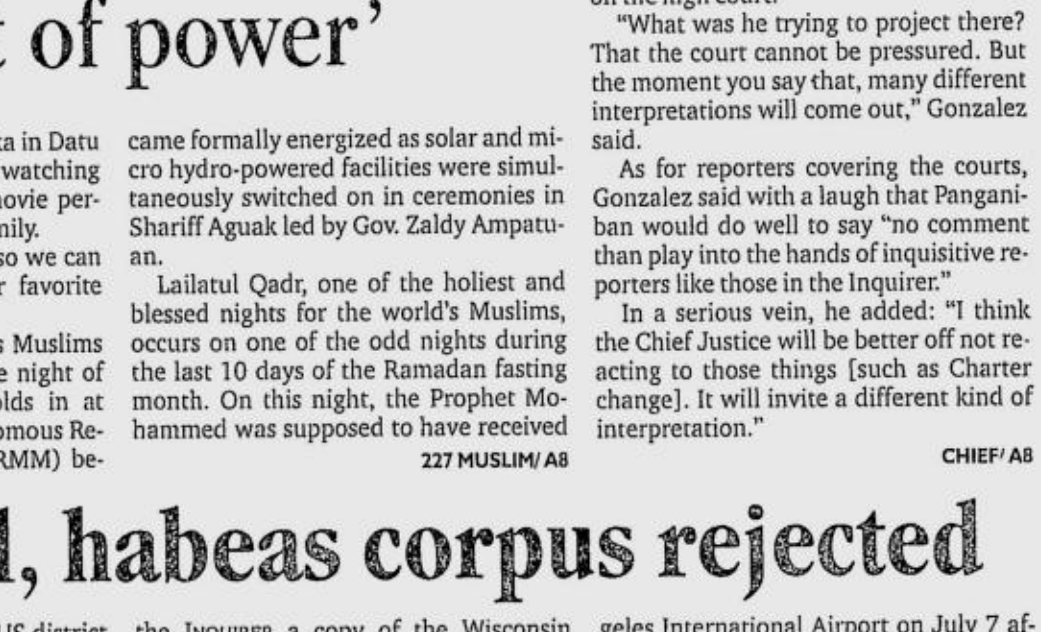
In spite of the day-long journey that included 15 hours on a plane, I didn't feel tired as I rode into Manila in January, 2006. But I was mesmerized: on streets already crowded at six on a Thursday morning, I saw with growing bewilderment hundreds of Filipino men and women staring intently into their palms.

I shudder at the smug arrogance of religious (but hardly spiritual) fundamentalists of all organized "Faiths," so seeing Filipinos gazing as though hypnotized into their palms made me groan at the possibility that religious literalism had inflicted its soul-killing edicts with terminal efficacy. Were the zombie-like Filipinos I passed on the streets being programmed from mini cathechism books or beads clasped in their hands?

"They're texting," I was told.

Texting? Ah, texting! Is there such a word? Anyway, what a relief! Of course, where I live now, people text messages on cell phones, too. But it's done without such—intensity. There, a

BILLBOARDS/ A19



HELLLOOO. A performer who dances, plays the guitar and gets into all sorts of acrobatic contortions—all at the same time—can't seem to do enough to grab the attention of the guests seated at the presidential table led by President Arroyo on Philtrust's 90th anniversary.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will have a mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers, while Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers.

COMPILED BY LAW DE GUZMAN INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/21/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COA: Chavit ignored advice on advances

By Norman Bordadora

ILOCOS SUR GOV. LUIS SINGSON STILL RECEIVED millions of pesos in cash advances in 2004 despite a Commission on Audit recommendation that he refrain from depending on such funds to finance government programs, an audit report on the province showed.

The audit report on Ilocos Sur obtained by the INQUIRER for the year 2004 showed that this was one of the 12 recommendations made by COA in its 2003 report that were disregarded by the governor and other provincial officials during the election year.

"If only people like Chavit Singson will be made accountable, people will no longer complain about (Makati Mayor) Jojo Binay being charged and suspended," said lawyer Rene Saguisag when told of the 2004 COA recommendations and observations.

Singson, however, denied the allegation he received the cash advances to fund his projects in 2004 despite the COA recommendation.

In a telephone interview on Saturday, Singson said he had no pending cases regarding alleged irregularities involving cash advances taken out by the provincial government.

Cases filed by his political opponents on the use of the provincial government's funds had been dismissed by the Ombudsman, he said.

As of end-2003, the unliquidated cash advances of the provincial government amounted to P180.6 million. The local government managed to trim the amount to P54.8 million by the end of 2004.

Saguisag, a lawyer for deposed President Joseph Estrada in the plunder case that stemmed from Singson's exposé in 2000, said it would be a challenge for the Arroyo administration, particularly the Office of the Ombudsman, to file charges against Singson.

"That's not going to happen," Saguisag said, on Singson being charged in connection with the allegations of graft.

He noted that Singson was not only a staunch ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo but also someone the administration owed a debt of gratitude to.

The COA said the cash advances were granted Singson despite his continued failure to fully liquidate previous advances that amounted to more than P124 million in each year from 2001 to 2003, again in disregard of the COA recommendations against such acts.

The 2004 COA report showed that Singson managed to trim his unliquidated cash advances substantially by yearend but had yet to provide receipts and documentation for more than P7 million.

The audit report said the provincial government of Ilocos Sur also ignored a COA recommendation that tobacco excise tax proceeds be used only for programs that would directly benefit tobacco farmers and spent P85.6 million of the Republic Act 7171 funds in 2004 for purposes other than farm-related projects.

The COA said the P85.6 million was disbursed improperly and was used for the repair of classrooms.

"We recommend that the provincial governor being an elected official should refrain from resorting to cash advances in the implementation of the different programs/projects/activities of the province," said the COA in its list of recommendations in its 2003 audit report.

"Instead, payments for these transactions should be made directly to the dealer/supplier/contractor," it said.

Despite the prohibition, the COA found out that some P26.5 million in cash advances was still given out to Ilocos Sur officials and employees in 2004.

"Not complied," said the COA in its 2004 report across the item enjoining Singson not to depend on cash advances to fund government projects and activities.

In its 2003 report, the COA said Singson received a total of P31.1 million for the implementation of government programs "in violation of COA Circular No. 97-002... and contrary to the policies of financial transactions and operations of government."

"Likewise, additional cash advances were allowed even if the previous cash advance was not yet settled in violation of Section 89 of PD 1445," the COA added.

The COA nonetheless said that the provincial government "partially complied" with its 2003 recommendation that the provincial accountant withhold the salaries of concerned officials and employees who fail to liquidate their cash advances by Jan. 20, 2004, to eliminate totally cash advances at the end of the year."

However, the audit report said the provincial government failed to comply with the 2003 recommendation that proceeds of the tobacco excise tax pursuant to RA 7171 be used only for projects that will directly benefit Virginia tobacco farmers.

The COA said the provincial administrator explained that the expenditures will "benefit the farmers ultimately anyway." *With a report from Leoncio Balbin Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Palace: We were right in suspending Binay

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Armand N. Nocum and Jocelyn R. Uy

DESPITE THE SETBACK AFter the Court of Appeals stopped the suspension of Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, Malacañang yesterday insisted it did not err when it ordered his suspension allegedly maintaining "ghost employees."

"I cannot see what big mistake Malacañang made in suspending Mayor Binay. We're just doing our duty. That's the legal procedure and (the charges) have basis," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said in an interview over Vice President Noli de Castro's radio show.

Ermita has been under fire for signing the suspension order against Binay in behalf of the President when his office function is limited to merely implementing the President's directives.

"We are trying to help the President by not letting her attend personally to many administrative matters. As executive secretary, I can sign orders in the name of and with the authority of the President," Ermita said.

Ermita said the Palace acted within the bounds of the law in suspending Binay and respected the court's decision to issue a temporary restraining order even though the Palace might not agree with it.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that complainant Roberto Brillante now held the key to securing the lifting of the TRO.

"The one who should reveal all that he knows is the complainant. He's supposed to know the facts of the case and why he charged Binay," Gonzalez said.

"(Brillante) should identify the alleged ghost employees who are coming out on television," he said after some individuals were interviewed on television but declined to show their faces.

According to Gonzalez, Malacañang wanted Binay suspended to encourage some of the 1,235 ghost employees to come out. Brillante earlier claimed that Binay and other officials benefited from the P113.1 million in salaries for the ghost employees.

"That is the reason, in fact, why there should be a preventive suspension so that the people will really come out. When Binay was suspended, people were already coming out. Now, they will never come out," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez admitted that the President called him on Friday, the day after the TRO was issued, to ask who was "in charge" of the" Binay case.

When he replied it was the DILG, he said the President did not make any further comment.

But if Malacañang wants Binay out, his constituents still support him.

The support of residents of posh villages in Makati City who may not have kept vigil outside city hall when Binay was under siege was evident in yesterday's assembly.

3 aftershocks felt after 5.2-quake jolts islands

By Norman Bordadora and Marlon Alexander Luistro, Madonna T. Virola,
Inquirer Southern Luzon

A MAGNITUDE 5.2-EARTHQUAKE SHOOK the sea floor between the islands of Mindoro and Marinduque at 10:30 Friday night, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology reported yesterday.

Phivolcs said the earthquake was felt on the two islands, parts of Southern Tagalog and Metro Manila. It generated three aftershocks yesterday—one at 1:27 a.m., another at 6:09 a.m. and the last at 10:53 a.m.

It added that the quakes did not indicate a bigger quake was coming.

There were no reports of damage or loss of life.

Rodrigo Medrano, Phivolcs research specialist in Tagaytay City, said the earthquakes were not strong enough to damage property or cause death. "They cannot also cause cracks among road infrastructures and buildings," he said.

Despite the offshore location of the earthquake's epicenter, Phivolcs said no tsunami lashed the coastal areas of Southern Luzon as the quake and its aftershocks "had magnitudes that are not capable of generating destructive tsunamis."

Tsunamis were usually generated by a quake with a magnitude of about 7.0, the institute said.

"However, Phivolcs still expects aftershocks to continue occurring in the next few days which may be felt, especially within the vicinity of the epicenter," it said in its Saturday morning bulletin. "Because of this, Phivolcs is continuously monitoring the area and any new development will be relayed to all concerned."

Phivolcs said aftershocks normally exhibited lower magnitudes than the main quake but might vary in intensity.

Phivolcs reported the earthquake to have been felt with intensity five in Marinduque, Naujan in Mindoro Oriental, Batangas City and Bauan in Batangas; with intensity four in Manila, Lipa City in Batangas and San Pablo City in Batangas; with intensity three in Makati, Puerto Galera in Mindoro Oriental, Talisay in Batangas and Lucban in Quezon; with intensity two in Quezon City, Tagaytay City in Cavite and Guinayangan in Quezon.

Magnitude-five quakes and lower could just cause container spills and hanging objects such as chandeliers to sway, Medrano said. *With an AFP report*

Give Yap a break, Palace tells agri chief's detractors

By Gil Cabacungan Jr., Philip Tubeza and Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY BRANDED AS "unfair" the opposition's allegation that President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to return Arthur Yap to the Department of Agriculture was linked to the coming elections.

"Secretary Yap is a capable and competent official who has already proven himself in the agriculture portfolio," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. "Let us give him a break to do his job to increase farm productivity and create more jobs in that sector."

Yap was at the helm of the DA from August 2004 to July 2005.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters that it was unfair for critics to brand Yap as an "election operator" purely on speculation and without any basis.

He said that Yap's declaration that he would cut subsidies for fertilizer and other farm inputs once he stepped into the DA should be enough to silence his critics. Ermita was obliquely referring to the fertilizer fund scandal that had the administration reeling from accusations it used the fund to bankroll its campaign in the last presidential elections.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the country's biggest business organization, also backed Yap's return to the department. In one of its resolutions at the conclusion of the 32nd Philippine Business Conference, the PCCI said Yap's reappointment would "significantly help improve the performance and competitiveness of Philippine agriculture."

Even an opposition lawmaker backed the President's decision to reappoint Yap yesterday.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico vouched for Yap's integrity, saying he was known for his strong work ethic and efficiency.

"I welcome the appointment of Art Yap as DA secretary…I had known (him) before we both became public servants," Suplico said. "I am certain that he will serve as DA secretary without partiality, a trait hardly found in other Cabinet secretaries."

Government officials and farmers in La Trinidad, Benguet, also gavè Yap a vote of confidence, saying he had done a lot for the vegetable industry.

They said that during Yap's first stint at the DA the plight of vegetable farmers became one of the department's major concerns.

It's now nurse vs nurse in leak

By Norman Bordadora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE NURSING EXAM FIASCO, MARRED by months of official flip-flopping on whether or not the leakage-tainted exam should be retaken, is now mirrored in a fight between nursing student factions—those who want to take their oath and those who want to retake the exam.

Renato Aquino, president of the Alliance of New Nurses, said they would file damage suits against those who filed an injunction against their oath-taking.

Aquino said their group was coordinating with "pro bono" lawyers to take on their case against Rene Luis Tadle, president of the University of Sto. Tomas, College of Nursing; Earl Francis Sumile, president of the League of Concerned Nurses, and Michael Angelo Brant, president of Binuklod na Samahan ng mga Student Nurses. These three groups filed for an injunction against the oath-taking of those who passed the June 2006 nursing board examinations.

The recriminations erupted after the Court of Appeals decided last week to finally allow all those who passed the nursing board exam, except in Baguio and Manila where the examination leakage were reported, to take their professional oath.

Aquino argued that those who had satisfactory scores in the leakage-marred exams had "had bouts of depression and sleepless nights as a result of the continued delay in their getting their nursing licenses."

"We want them to suffer what we have suffered for the last four months," Aquino said at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo news forum.

Aquino said they were also considering the inclusion in the damage suit of presidential adviser on overseas employment Dante Ang, who wanted a total retake of the nursing board exam, and Labor Secretary Arturo Brion, who postponed the oath-taking pending a decision on various motions for reconsideration and further investigation of the alleged cheating.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, meanwhile, said the government "has no recourse but to administer the oath-taking of nursing students who passed once the Court of Appeals decision takes effect on Oct. 28.

Gonzalez sided with those impatient to take their oaths: "There is no point in delaying the oath-taking because the Professional Regulation Commission could just as easily revoke or withdraw the licenses of those nurses that would later be found to have cheated in the nursing exams."

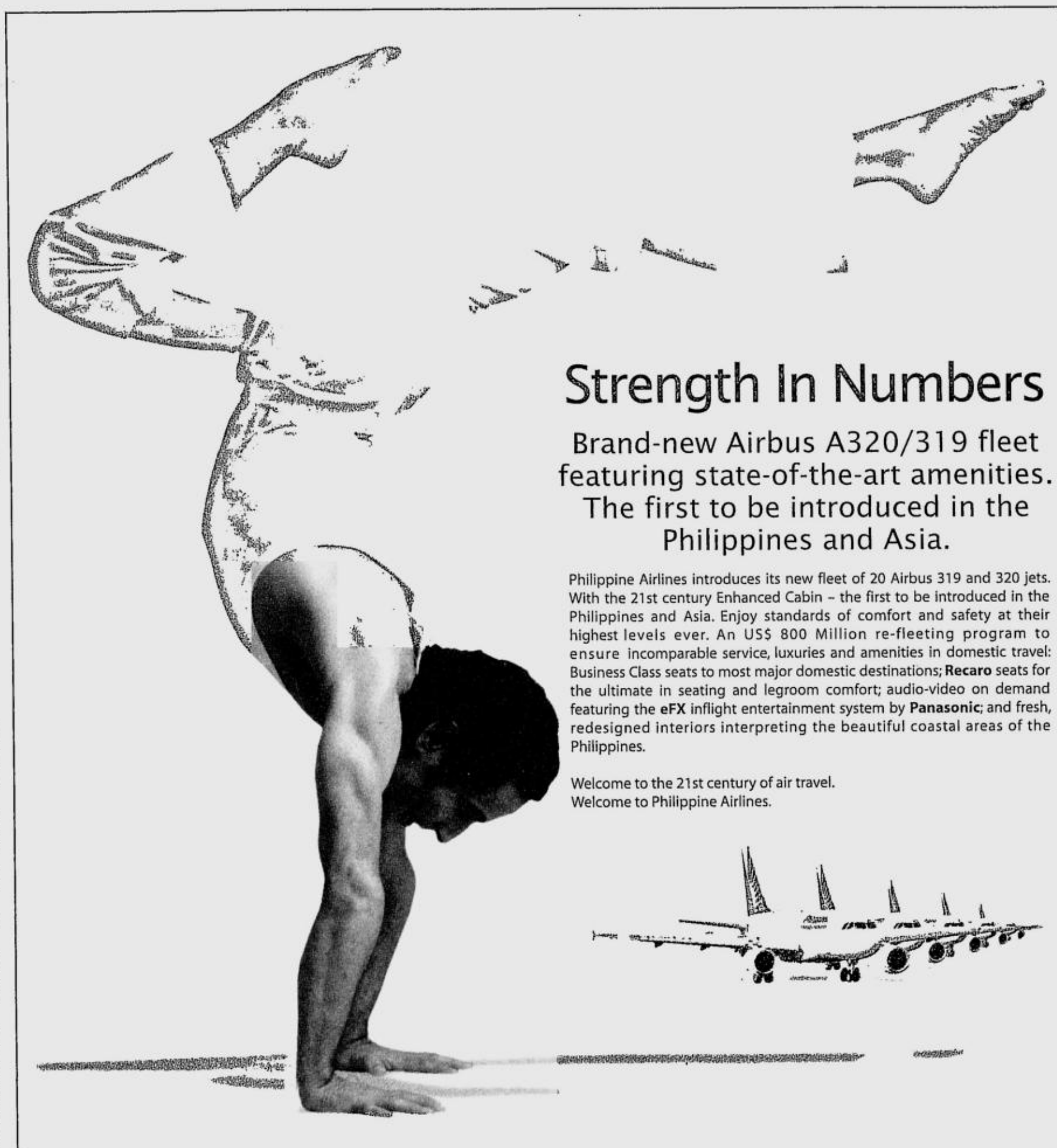
But Brion stood pat on his position not to allow any oath-taking until all those who had benefited from the leakage had been identified.

The CA has so far identified 1,687 examinees out of the 17,821 who passed the examinations to undergo a retake of Tests III (medical-surgical nursing) and V (psychiatric nursing). Brion argued that a motion filed with the CA by the University of Santo Tomas, University of the Philippines, University of the East and the Far Eastern University could have an impact on the CA decision issued on Oct. 13.

In a statement, Brion appealed to nursing board examinees to "be patient for the sake of the integrity of our professional exams."

But Gonzalez countered: "His (Brion's) position has always been extreme, he was always for a retake and we had clashed in the Cabinet over that. I said that the nurses are more victims than culprits and that the real culprits are the nursing board examiners. My position is exactly what the CA did on all four counts," Gonzalez said. *With reports from Nestor P. Burgos, Inquirer Visayas, and Jerome Aning*

NO RETAKE. Parents of the examinees affected by the scandal-tainted nursing board exam appear at a press conference at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City yesterday to present their signature campaign in support of the "no retake" position. JOAN BONDOC



VIBAL Pioneers in Interactive Educational DVDs

VIBAL Publishing House introduces another educational innovation with the launching of its 10-volume DVD package entitled **Regions of the Philippines,** which boasts of unique interactive features.

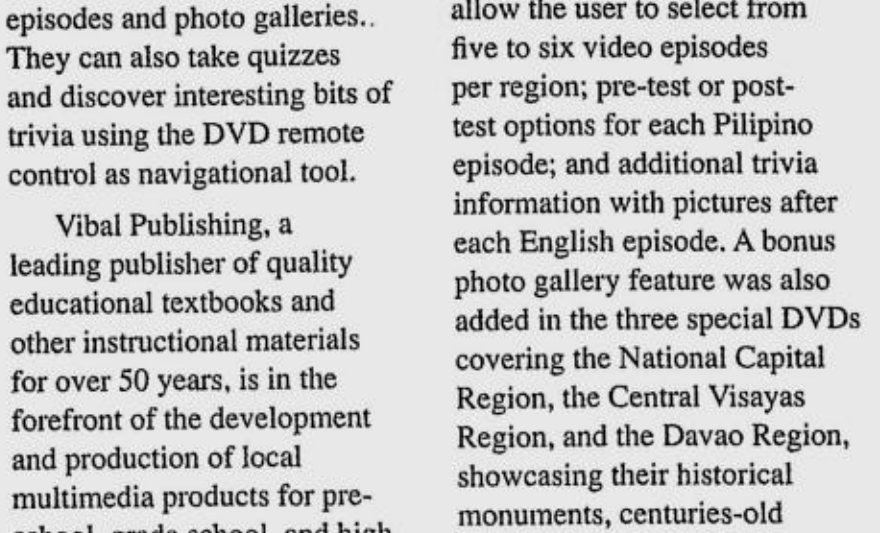
The one-of-a-kind collection allows users—students or otherwise—to explore or go on virtual field trips to the 17 regions of the Philippines through video episodes and photo galleries.. They can also take quizzes and discover interesting bits of trivia using the DVD remote control as navigational tool.

Vibal Publishing, a leading publisher of quality educational textbooks and other instructional materials for over 50 years, is in the forefront of the development and production of local multimedia products for pre-school, grade school, and high school.

"We wanted an interactive product that could be used by as many Filipino students as possible," said Nila V. Mata, VIBAL vice president and general manager. "We realized that while only 12% of the Filipino population has access to the computer and the Internet, virtually every school throughout the country has a TV and DVD set. Thus, we decided to come out with a new product in DVD format that simulates the interactive features of the CD-ROM."

Among the other interactive features of the DVD collection are: English and Filipino language options; menus that allow the user to select from five to six video episodes per region; pre-test or post-test options for each Pilipino episode; and additional trivia information with pictures after each English episode. A bonus photo gallery feature was also added in the three special DVDs covering the National Capital Region, the Central Visayas Region, and the Davao Region, showcasing their historical monuments, centuries-old churches, and exotic flora and fauna, respectively.

The DVD collection comes with an easy-to-follow user's guide and a teacher's manual complete with enrichment activities especially designed to help enhance the learning process.



Vibal Publishing House is presented a plaque of recognition for its Regions of the Philippines DVD as official Philippine entry to the UN-sponsored World Summit Award by Josie Cacdac, WSA-Philippines chairperson, and Corazon Claudio, Ph.D., jury member (4th and 5th fr. right). Receiving the award are (L-R) Daniel Desiderio, multimedia developer/programmer; Julius Corotan and Alfred Ursua, producers; Malou B. Aguinaldo, instructional designer/content developer; and Jose Lloyd Espiritu, Ph.D., EduTech consultant.

Science Education with a Difference

Try showing a child an image in black and white and another in color, and he or she is likely to remember details of the color photo. Indeed, studies have shown that colors can definitely enhance the learning process. For one, young readers are easily drawn by vibrant colors. Secondly, tables and charts are easier to understand if presented in color. In fact, colors by themselves can carry information and help deliver the message.

When teachers and students began using Vibal Publishing's full-color Science & Technology series for high school piloted in school year 2004-05, science education took a whole new dimension; and even more so, in the following school year, with the release of a grade school counterpart series entitled Exploring & Protecting Our World.

Noted science education consultant Lilia M. Rabago, Ph.D. is the lead author for both series. She says, "Colors not only add visual appeal; they actually bring science concepts to life."

"For example, it does make a whole lot of difference if a textbook can show the actual color of a flower; or a caterpillar's metamorphosis into a colorful butterfly," adds Dr. Rabago.

VIBAL's complete science program for basic education (including three preschool levels) uses the learner-centered approach—making use of conversational language, reader-friendly sequence and pacing. Naturally, the full-color format adds visual appeal and also helps stimulate student imagination.

The grade school series features the same modular presentation used in the best-selling S&T high school series, found to be most effective in ensuring student mastery of lessons presented. Although the series follows the curriculum prescribed by the Department of Education, the modular presentation allows teachers flexibility in following their own scope and sequence.

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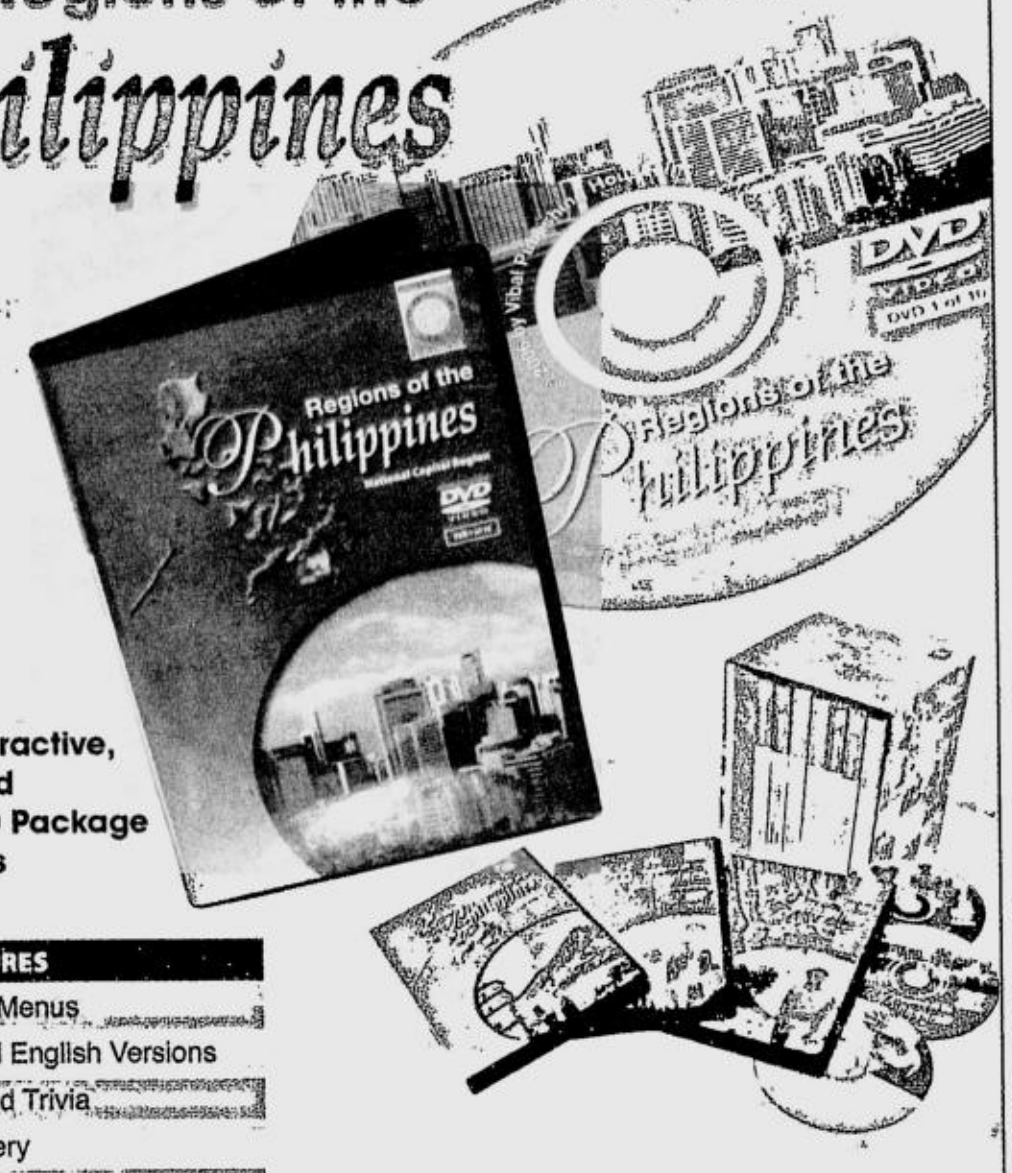

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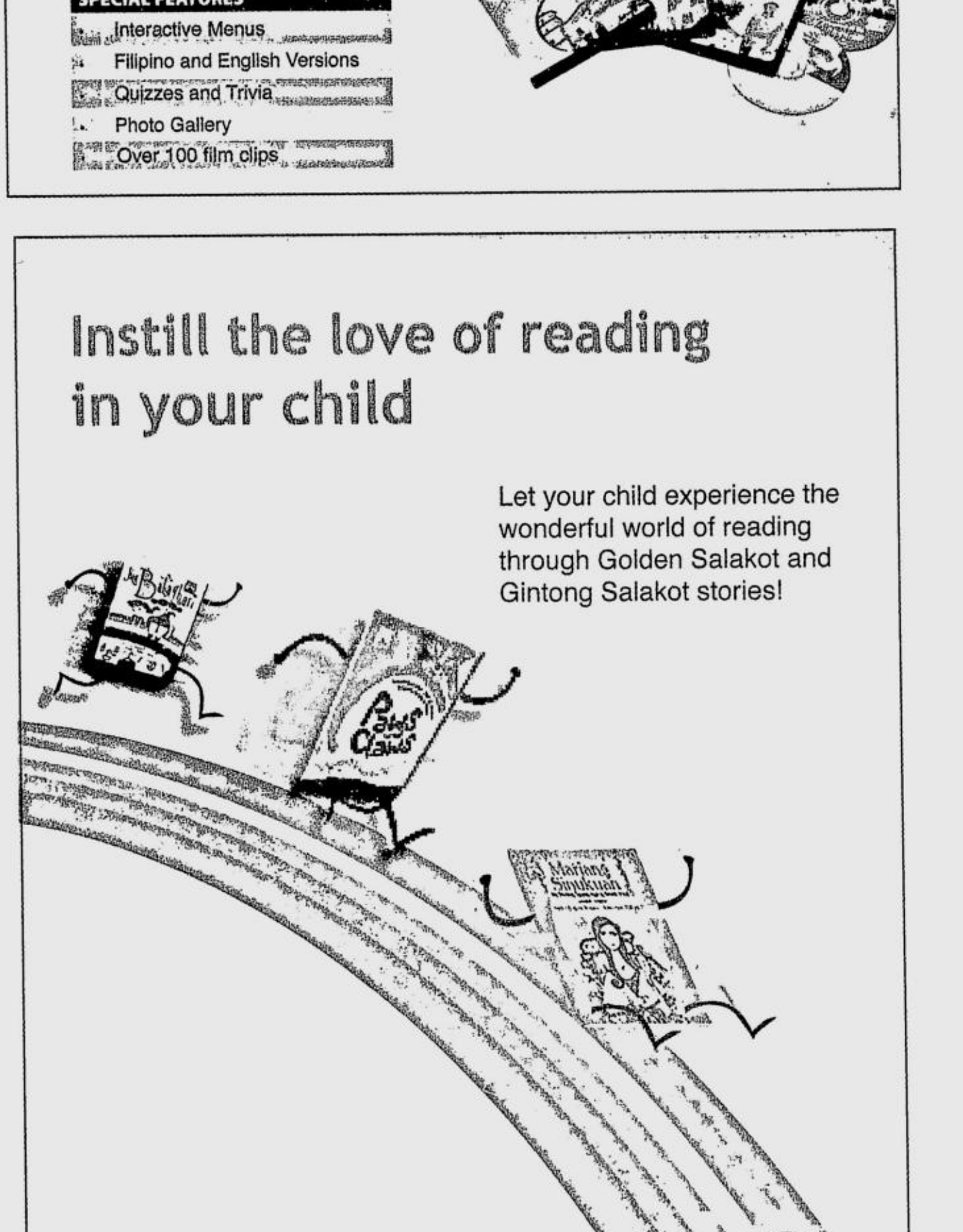

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7. All entries must be received by PMPMI not later than November 19, 2006. PMPMI and its agents will have no responsibility for lost, illegible, incomplete, misdirected, mutilated, postage due, or late entries.

8. The draw will be held on December 9, 2006 in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative.

The following prizes will be drawn with the corresponding cash prize for the store/outlet owner:

Quantity	Prize	Cash Prize for Store/Outlet Owner
1	Trip for 2 to any winter destination	Php 75,000
10	Sony Ericsson K800i mobile phones	Php 10,000 each
30	Sony DSC-W50 digital cameras	Not applicable
80	Oakley Spike eyewear	Not applicable
120	Samsonite Inventure Duffle Bag	Not applicable

9. The names of the winners will be published in one of the leading newspapers not later than December 25, 2006. Winners will be notified via telegram as to when and where they can claim their prizes. By participating, the winners agree to the inclusion of their names and/or pictures in the Winners Advertisement.

10. Store/outlet owners have a chance to win cash prizes only for the Trip, Sony Ericsson W900i and Sony Cybershot T5 prizes. To qualify, the store/outlet owner must be at least 18 years old. In the event that the winner is also the store/outlet owner, he or she gets to win both the corresponding prize and the cash prize for the store/outlet.

11. If a winning entry does not bear the name and address of the store/outlet, the entry will still be valid but no store/outlet winner will be declared for the corresponding cash prize.

12. Prizes for winning adult smokers and store/outlet owners will only be awarded to the person whose name appears on the winning entry. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from publication of the winners, or notification of winners, whichever comes later, will be forfeited with the written approval of the DOH-BFAD.

13. The grand prize (Trip for 2 to any winter destination) is non-transferable, but is convertible to cash. In the event the winner fails to secure/ complete necessary documents for the trip such as passport or visa, and/ or does not want to take the trip, the monetary equivalent of the trip which is Php 500,000 shall be awarded. The Php 500,000 will be paid to the winner via check. Minor prizes are non-transferable and non-convertible to cash.

14. Grand prize winner should avail of the trip before December 30, 2007. They will be provided roundtrip air transportation to the country of choice, accommodations, regular daily meals, local transportation and other provisions as may be determined by PMPMI. Total cost for the trip for 2 should not exceed Php 500,000.

15. PMPMI reserves the right to change the dates, location, and events comprised in the trip or to cancel the trip if prevented or restricted from conducting the trip for reasons outside the control of PMPMI. In the event the trip is cancelled in its entirety, PMPMI will substitute the trip with Php 500,000.

16. Prior to going to the trip, grand prize winner and his/her companion will be required to execute or furnish such documentation as PMPMI may require, including but not limited to good health report, complete liability release, indemnification and waiver, and complete publicity release and undertaking.

17. Grand prize winner must have a valid Philippine passport and be eligible for and successfully secure a visa for the country chosen for the trip. PMPMI does not undertake nor guarantee the issuance of any visa to any of the winners. It will be the sole responsibility of all trip winners to secure their respective visas. PMPMI, however, will provide trip winners written certification pertinent to winning the raffle promotion. Non-eligibility or failure to secure the above mentioned travel documents will result in the awarding of Php 500,000 as monetary equivalent of the trip. All expenditures (e.g. transportation, lodging, fees etc.), that may be incurred in the procurement of their respective visas will be shouldered by the participants.

18. In claiming a prize, the winner must present the original notification telegram from PMPMI and two (2) original and valid identification documents (Driver's license, Passport, Birth Certificate) and Tax Identification Number (TIN). The IDs presented (singly or collectively) should show the following information below. If the IDs submitted do not contain the following three (3) pieces of information, it will not be accepted as valid proof of identification:

- Full Name
- Date of Birth or Age
- Signature

19. In case the winner is unable to present two (2) original and valid ID's acceptable to PMPMI, he/she must submit sworn affidavits, executed by two (2) disinterested persons attesting to his/her identity; and a certification from the responsible municipality/city official certifying that he/she is a resident of the said municipality/city.

20. In cases wherein the winner cannot personally claim the prize for any reason, he/she can send a proxy. The proxy should be able to present the following:
- A letter of authorization duly signed by the winner, nominating the proxy as the acknowledged recipient of the prize on the winner's behalf
- Two (2) original and valid ID's of the winner (singly or collectively showing the required information as mentioned in item 18)
- Two (2) original and valid ID's of the proxy
- Original copy of the notification telegram from PMPMI.

21. Except as expressly provided in paragraph 10, an entrant can only win once. If a person is drawn more than once, the winner will receive the prize of the higher value and a winner for the other prize will be re-drawn.

22. Prizes will be supplied with standard dealers' warranties only, where available. PMPMI and its agents will not be liable with respect to: (i) any death or injury or consequential loss or damage arising from the use of any prize, (ii) any dealer's refusal to honor any warranty.

23. Prizes are subject to availability and supplier's restrictions. PMPMI may, without notice, withdraw or substitute any prize with comparable value and nature.

24. PMPMI will only pay final withholding taxes on a prize amounting to more than PhP 10,000. Except as expressly provided herein, PMPMI will not be liable to the winners for any taxes, costs, liabilities or expenses that may arise out of ownership or use of the prizes.

25. All decisions of PMPMI and its agents are final and no objections will be entertained.

26. Employees of PMPMI, their affiliates, distributors, advertising and promotional agencies, as well as their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity, and DOH-BFAD are not eligible to participate in this promotion.

27. These terms and conditions are subject to any relevant law, government direction and regulation. The promotion will be void where prohibited or restricted by law. Venue of any action arising under this promotion shall be brought solely in the proper courts of Makati City, all other available venues of suit being waived.

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Red Cross seeks int'l aid for victims of 'Milenyo'

By Bobby Q. Labalan
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SORSOGON CITY—SEN. Richard Gordon, Philippine National Red Cross chair, yesterday appealed for international aid for victims of typhoon "Milenyo" which devastated large parts of the province, other Bicol provinces and Metro Manila.

Gordon made the appeal following a visit here together with US Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney and International Red Cross head Roger Brock. They described the damage as "enormous."

Gordon estimated that some $5 million would be needed to provide for the basic needs of just one-third of the severely affected families, which numbered about 25,000 by the PNRC's count, to enable them to return to their normal lives.

But the National Disaster Coordinating Council has placed the figure of affected families at 114,000.

In a phone interview, Gordon said the national government supported the PNRC's cry for help and made the same appeal for foreign assistance to the victims.

The Red Cross chair noted that victims of Milenyo in the countryside were not given enough attention by the government and the media due to the absence of communication facilities after the typhoon and the killer billboards in Metro Manila were given more hype.

Gordon stressed that had the extent of the damage been properly given media attention, international relief donors would have responded immediately similar to the Guinsaugon tragedy in Leyte, which paled in comparison to the Milenyo onslaught.

He, however, clarified that PNRC, being an auxillary organization, could not provide all the needs of the victims and it was still the government that must take the biggest responsibility.

The PNRC will initiate another relief distribution activity possibly next week, he said.

"We should also find a way to solve the vicious cycle of poverty and disaster wherein everytime there is a disaster, these poor people suffer and they lose their properties, they lose their livelihoods and as a result they become even poorer," Gordon said.

To raise funds for the victims of typhoon "Milenyo," more than 100 religious images will be part of an exhibit at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong from Oct. 22 to 28.

The exhibit, organized by the Catholic Church-run Radio Veritas, features various images of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Jesus Christ and the saints. Among these will be the image of the Our Lady of Miraculous Medal, the treasured icon of the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, and rosaries blessed by his successor, Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales.

The rosaries will be given to the first 1,000 visitors, according to a statement released through the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Dubbed "Marian Radio Pilgrimage," the exhibit will coincide with the Marian season and the month of the Holy Rosary, a much-awaited occasion in the calendar of the predominantly Catholic Philippines.

Fr. Anton Pascual, Radio Veritas president and executive director of Caritas Manila, said proceeds from the exhibit will go to the victims of "Milenyo." *With Christian V. Esguerra*

'CAN WE TAKE OFF NOW?'
A boy makes like the pilot and looks out of the cockpit of a United States military C-130 aircraft during an open house for families working at Clark in Pampanga, a former US Air Force base. Some 7,000 American and Filipino troops are holding joint ground, air and naval exercises this month in various places in the country. REUTERS

Diplomacy part of plan to end insurgency, says defense chief

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO City—Diplomacy is still part of a strategic plan aimed at ending the decades-old communist insurgency that President Macapagal-Arroyo wants crushed in two years, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said here on Saturday.

Addressing Philippine Military Academy cadets and officers on their 108th Foundation Day here, Cruz said communist rebels will confront "tested methods and new ideas" in diplomacy and modern warfare.

The communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) terminated peace talks with the government in 2004 after the group was included in the list of international terrorist groups. Negotiations have not resumed since then.

Cruz did not say if the government plans to reopen talks with the NDF, although he pointed out a parallel need "to win ... to our side" barangays in the countryside which had been cleared of rebel influence.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. told reporters here that Army soldiers were due to leave these villages and would be replaced by members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographic Units (Cafgu).

Cruz said the insurgency remained the military's fundamental assignment, despite efforts to refocus the agenda of the Armed Forces on extraterritorial threats.

Cruz said the communist rebellion had amassed 26,000 armed volunteers at the height of martial rule, but their numbers had gradually dropped until the 1986 Edsa Revolution that ousted the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Government has now resolved "to stop [this] vicious cycle once and for all," now that all indications show a 13 percent annual decline in the New People's Army troop strength since 2001, Cruz said.

He promised the PMA cadets that the government's new counterinsurgency plans would be devoid of political interference or fiscal woes.

Cruz said the Commission on Elections had agreed to free military personnel from election duties, which junior military officers had strongly demanded.

"Never again will soldiers be used to advance a self-serving political agenda ... [or] those who meddle from the shadows," he said.

He said the country's "robust" economy would ensure that the Armed Forces' modernization program would be subsidized.

Cruz said the government's gradual improvement of military hardware and logistics has helped enhance the country's attraction to investors.

Former Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said Cruz had also supported efforts to modernize the PMA in recognition of the academy's role in upgrading the military.

Estanislao heads the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA), which formally tied up with the PMA on Saturday to help develop its Center for Leadership Training here.

Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

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Abducted engineers shaken but willing to return to Sulu

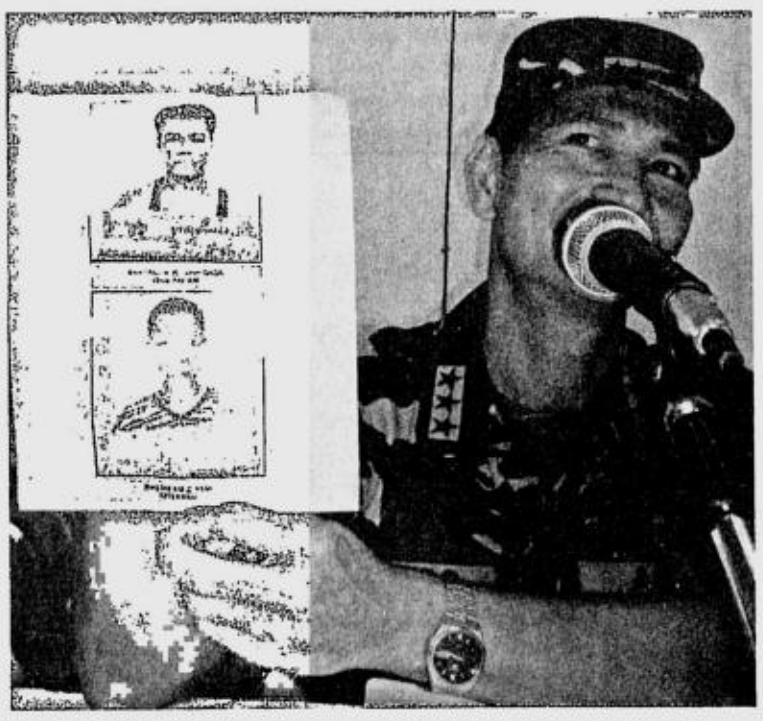
By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA City—Engineer Romeo Rivera, one of four employes of a United States-funded project in Sulu, was visibly shaken, and at times broke into sobs, as he retold their daring but harrowing pre-dawn escape from Abu Sayyaf kidnappers on Thursday.

It was the scariest two days of his life, said Rivera of the Davao City-based Monolithic Construction. But he and the three other kidnap victims said they would still go back to Sulu to finish the project.

Rivera, together with co-engineers Reynaldo Rubio and Larry Bautista had just finished inspecting a project being constructed under the internationally-funded Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) program in Parang, Sulu, on Tuesday and were on their way home when they were taken at gunpoint by unidentified militants.The driver of the pickup truck they were riding in, Isidro Amarano Lapus, was also taken with them.

"I have no other choice but to go back. I need to finish our projects even though the threat is still there," Rivera said in a press conference here.



WESTERN MINDANAO Command chief Lt. Gen. Eugenio Cedo holds up the mug shots of two of the three suspects in the kidnapping of three engineers and their driver in Sulu. Cedo directed his troops to go after them. INQUIRER PHOTO/JULIE S. ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Lapus, who has been working with Rivera for almost a year now, seconded Rivera . "I will not leave him alone."I will still accompany him," he said.

A native of this city, Lapus said the experience had strengthened his resolve to remain in Sulu.

Bautista of the Manila-based TerraSyme Chemicals, still holding the yellow nylon rope which the abductors used to tie him up, said the experience was an "enlightening moment" and had brought him "closer to God."

At times the three tried to make light of their experience.

"It was probably our tension and fear that helped us escape" quipped Rubio.

"We were really sweating, probably because of the extreme physical activity, tension and fear, so that our hands became slippery, and so we were able to untangle ourselves," he said.

The kidnap victims, noting that their guard had fallen asleep,ran as fast as they could and bumped into soldiers of the 104th Infantry Brigade who were patrolling the area.

Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief Lt. Gen. Eugenio Cedo said now that the victims were all free, the military would continue its operation against the kidnappers, said to be members of an Abu Sayyaf faction.

Cedo said at least two battalions of Army soldiers were directed to pursue the kidnappers, believed led by notorious brothers Itting and Omar Sailani.

The Sailani brothers are also the main suspects in the fatal shooting in Jolo more than a year ago of INQUIRER photo correspondent Gene Boyd Lumawag.

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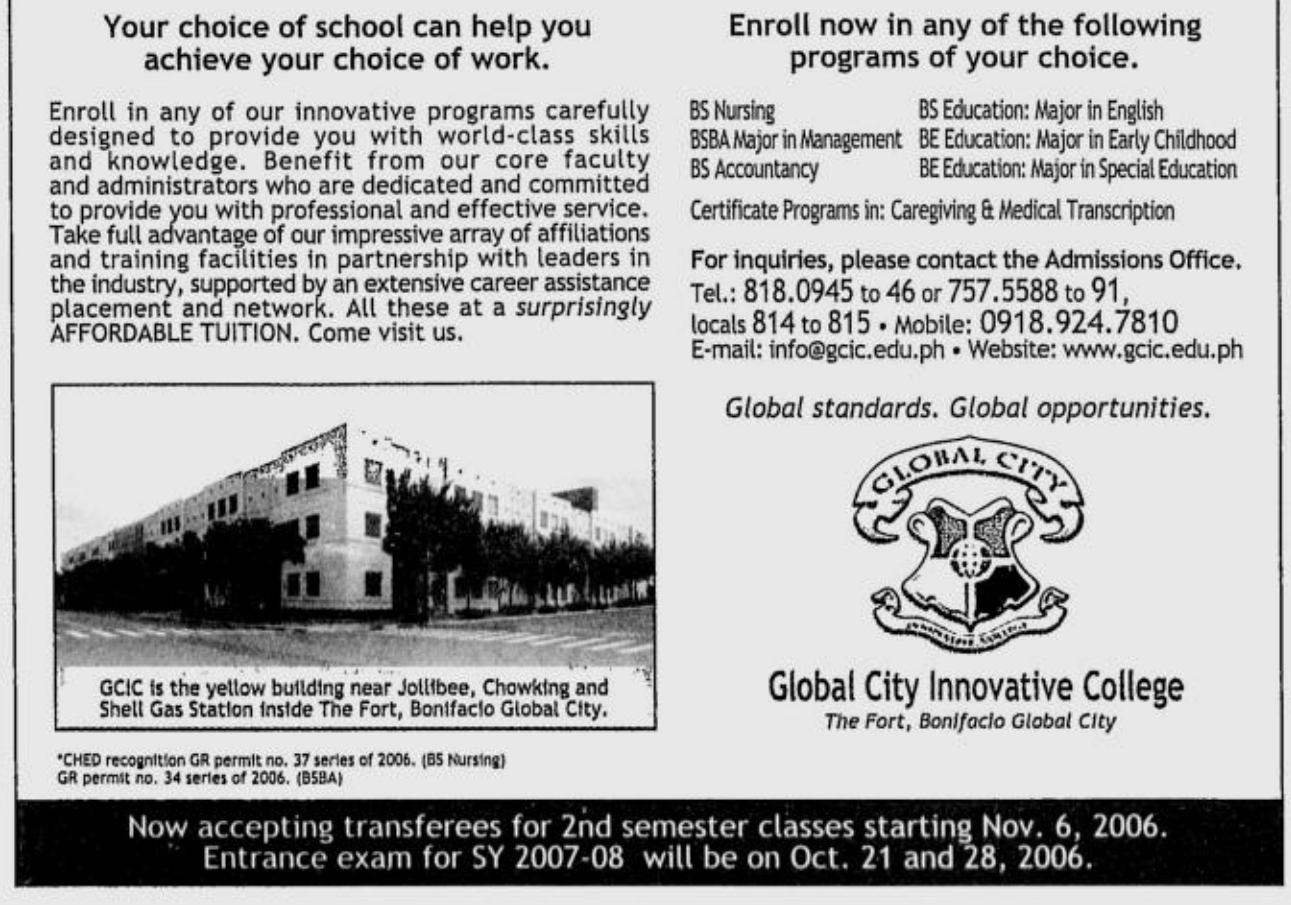

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Cheating in polls leads to gov't of cheats–bishop

By Jerome Aning

WITH THE ELECTIONS LESS THAN eight months away, Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo reminded Filipino voters that "a government that wins by cheating will rule by cheating."

In his homily during a Mass for the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting's 15th founding anniversary last Thursday, Lagdameo called on the PPCRV and other election watchdogs to continue educating the people on the qualities of good governance.

The prelate said the PPCRV has been doing this by encouraging voters to discuss, discern and develop their positions on candidates; teaching them that "candidates must not be measured by their long-winded promises, which often are forgotten after they win," and taking into account the track record of candidates.

"The people must be encouraged to discuss and discern for themselves the moral evil of vote-buying and selling during the election," Lagdameo said. "They must discover for themselves how unpatriotic as well as immoral it is; they must open their eyes to it and not simply bury their heads in the sand."

Citing the group's journey through the years, PPCRV national chair Henrietta de Villa spoke about the council's vision of social transformation by helping Filipino voters "attain political holiness by becoming responsible citizens through responsible voting."

"PPCRV responds to the signs of the times. The political situation in our country is such that no way can responsible voting be abstracted from the life of our democracy or from our Christian life," she said.

According to her, the PPCRV continues to look into strategies that harness people participation in ensuring good governance, especially through elections.

"If unscrupulous politicians have been using elections for their own good, it's time we turned the tables around. Get the fools out and let the angels in," she said.

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DOLE cites departed attaché to Singapore

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYment paid tribute on Friday to the country's labor attache to Singapore, Corazon Alfonso, who died on Oct. 15.

"Alfonso was a great loss to the DOLE. She displayed remarkable courage, strength and dedication in performing her job, especially in serving the overseas Filipino workers on-site even as she was already sick with cancer," said Labor Secretary Arturo Brion.

Alfonso, who was concurrent head of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Singapore, died of breast cancer at the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center here last Sunday. She was 60.

Alfonso was assigned as a labor attache to Singapore in November 2005. She also held the same position in Rome, from 2001 to 2003. It was while on assignment in Rome that she was diagnosed with cancer of the right breast. The disease went into remission after treatment but recurred early this year.

Before being assigned to Singapore, Alfonso served as labor attache in South Korea from 1996 to 2001. She was also labor attache to Madrid from 1990 to 1995.

Alfonso graduated from the University of the Philippines with a degree in foreign service in 1968 and was project officer of the Development Academy of the Philippines.

She became project manager in several executive departments before joining the DOLE's International Labor Affairs Service as division chief in 1984 becoming its director three years later.

Jerome Aning

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 22, 2006
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 53:10-11
Offering for sin

Yet it was the will of Yahweh to crush him with grief.

When he makes himself an offering for sin,he will have a long life and see his descendants.

Through him the will of Yahweh is done.

For the anguish he suffered,he will see the light and obtain perfect knowledge.

My just servant will justify the multitude; he will bear and take away their guilt.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16
Great high priest

We have a great High Priest, Jesus, the Son of God, who has entered heaven. Let us, then, hold fast to the faith we profess. Our high priest is not indifferent to our weaknesses, for he was tempted in every way just as we are, yet without sinning. Let us, then, with confidence approach God, the giver of grace; we will obtain mercy and, through his favor, help in due time.

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45 (or 10:42-45)
The servant is the greatest

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said to him, "Master, we want you to grant us what we are going to ask of you." And he said, "What do you want me to do for you?" They answered, "Grant us to sit one at your right and one at your left when you come in your glory."

But Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized in the way I am baptized?" They answered, "We can." And Jesus told them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and you will be baptized in the way I am baptized. But to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to grant. It has been prepared for others."

On hearing this, the other 10 were angry with James and John; Jesus then called them to him and said, "As you know, the so-called rulers of the nations act as tyrants and their great ones oppress them. But it shall not be so among you; whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you shall make himself slave of all. Think of the Son of Man who has not come to be served but to serve and to give his life to redeem many."

Commentary

The just servant suffers yet is blessed with life, with light and knowledge. What is suffered saves others. Jesus is priest, yet one who has suffered and remained faithful so we are called to accept our sufferings and live justly, approaching God with Jesus, knowing grace and mercy will be given to us. James and John (and most of us) are looking for places of power yet Jesus is asking them to closely follow him on the way of the cross to the glory of resurrection life. Our baptism/confirmation and eucharist invite us always into the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Do we accept his offer?

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SC VOTING ON PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE

Joker's fearless forecast: 8-7 or 9-6, either way

LET THERE BE LIGHT: ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan (center) turns on the ceremonial switch in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, for the First Mindanao Light Festival. A joint project of USAID, Mirant Philippines Foundation, Winrock International and the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy Program, it will provide solar-generated electricity to 180 remote villages in the region. CHARLIE SENASE/ INQUIRER MINDANAO

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A FEARLESS FORECAST FROM SEN. JOKER Arroyo: The Supreme Court will be split 8-7 or 9-6 in the crucial case of whether the 19-year-old Constitution will soon be overhauled through the people's initiative backed by Malacañang and spearheaded by local officials and pro-amendment groups.

Having argued against the people's initiative in the Supreme Court on behalf of the Senate, Arroyo yesterday said he still did not see any ground for overturning the tribunal's 1997 ruling against the use of this mode of Charter change in the continuing absence of an enabling law from Congress.

And despite winning two recent unanimous decisions from the high court on behalf of the Senate, Arroyo said the case of the people's initiative would be a close call.

"It's a close fight; we can't predict which way it would go. We don't know what the decision would be—if it will be 8-7 or 9-6," he said over radio station dwIZ.

The tribunal will decide the issue next week, with no less than Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban admitting to getting "some pressure" from interested parties.

The seasoned lawyer, former executive secretary and three-term congressman of Makati represented the Senate in its opposition to the people's initiative petition filed by the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) and Sigaw ng Bayan.

'Nagsusungkitan'

According to another senator who echoed Arroyo's forecast, the scale is currently tipped in favor of the people's initiative.

"At the moment it's 8-7 in favor of the initiative. *Nagsusungkitan yung mga mahistrado dahil pag lumipat yung isa, mababago na ang takbo* (Each side is trying to get one swing vote because if one goes to the other side, that will change the equation)," said the senator who asked not to be named for fear of drawing the ire of the high court.

The senator also told the INQUIRER that the justices' intense grilling of Sigaw and Ulap petitioners during the oral arguments did not mean that they would rule in favor of the opposing camp.

What would happen next

Arroyo said a close vote could prolong the resolution of the case and push it dangerously close to the May 2007 senatorial and local elections.

"We should talk about what would happen next [after the decision]. Because it's a very close vote, we cannot avoid [a situation where] the losing side will file a motion for reconsideration," he said.

Arroyo said that if such a motion were filed, it would take up to the end of November for both sides to file their responses. He said the high court's final decision could come very close to the election period.

"According to Malacañang, there should be a plebiscite on Jan. 15. But if there will be a motion for reconsideration, the Supreme Court could render a decision around Christmas time, so I don't see how there can be a plebiscite on Jan. 15," he said.

He also said that if the high court allowed the initiative, there would be no more time for it because the Commission on Elections needs ample time to prepare for the plebiscite. But then, he pointed out, the election period for the scheduled senatorial and local elections would begin on Jan. 15.

Conscience vote

The people's initiative is a "very crucial" issue because it will change the structure of government and affect the democratic provisions of the post-Edsa Constitution, Arroyo said.

"It will decide the fate of the country, not only now but 10-30 years down the road. So this will be a conscience vote, and I'm sure the justices are weighing their decision," he said.

Arroyo said the situation was no different from that in 1973, when the Marcos dictatorship practically pointed guns at the justices so they would uphold his election.

"Now, they are just talking to the justices," he said, alluding to the purported pressure being exerted by Malacañang and the House of Representatives on the high court.

Sigaw and Ulap want the holding of a plebiscite for the proposed shift to a parliamentary-unicameral form of government from the present presidential-bicameral system.

They are seeking the changes through a direct initiative of the people, claiming that they had gathered 6.3 million signatures to comply with the requirement of at least 12 percent of all registered voters in the country with no less than 3 percent from each congressional district.

'Questionable procedure'

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said President Macapagal-Arroyo was "not telling the whole truth" about her campaign for Charter change.

While Ms Arroyo has stated that the political change she desires should be accompanied by a change in the system of government, she "conveniently forgot to mention that the methods for Charter change that her administration is pursuing are deemed unconstitutional and contrary to democratic process," Pimentel said.

"The honeyed words of the President should not fool anyone. What she does not say is that the procedure she is following is questionable," he said.

227 Muslim Mindanao villages light up on 'the night of power'

From page A1

the first of God's revelations in the form of the Koran, Islam's holy book.

$18-M project

The $18-million project to provide electricity to the remote communities of the ARMM was made possible through the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy Program (Amore), a partnership between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Energy, Mirant Phil. Foundation and Winrock Intl.

Cecile Rodriguez, the Amore senior coordinator, noted that the occasion coincided with the region-wide First Mindanao Light Festival aimed at raising awareness on the importance of light to peace and progress in Mindanao.

"With the use of a reliable and affordable stand-alone renewable energy system sourced from the rays of the sun and small hydro-charged power generation, the project has provided electricity to barangays of Basilan, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi," Rodriguez said.

Ampatuan announced that ARMM residents would be enjoying a two-day holiday to mark Eid'l Fitr, or the feast of the breaking of the fast, which marks the end of the Muslim fasting month.

Eid'l Fitr

He said he had declared Oct. 23 a "special non-working holiday" all over the region for the Eid'l Fitr celebrations.

Malacañang earlier declared Oct. 24 a holiday for the same reason.

The difference in dates is accounted for by the way different groups of Muslims reckon when the new moon of the ninth month is sighted, which is the start of the fasting month, and the sighting of the new moon of the next month, which marks the end of Ramadan.

Muslim religious leaders in the Philippines normally take the lead from Saudi Arabia or Malaysia in announcing the start of Ramadan.

"There are the early birds and those that follow the day after," said Islamic scholar Abhoud Syed Lingga.

Eid'l Fitr is a day of thanksgiving for Muslim worshippers, observed through the sharing of food, charity to the poor and congregational prayer in mosques and open fields.

Chief justice told: Lie low

From page A1

Panganiban spoke of the purported pressure in an ambush interview on Wednesday at the sidelines of the Global Forum on Liberty and Prosperity, a gathering of foreign magistrates led by Canadian Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin and sponsored by the Philippine Supreme Court.

"Yes, there's pressure from people who are interested [in the people's initiative petition]. But the court is used to pressure," Panganiban said without elaborating.

But the pressure "will not impede the court in deciding the case," he added.

Commenting on the matter on Thursday, Sen. Joker Arroyo said the supposed pressure on the high court could only be coming from Malacañang and the House of Representatives.

GMA, JDV pitch

Over dinner she hosted at the Palace on Thursday for the delegates of the Global Forum, President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed her administration's determination to push through with Charter change.

She said the Constitution should be amended "if we are to build a modern Philippines."

Late on Friday at the closing of the international gathering, Speaker Jose de Venecia called on the 15 justices of the Supreme Court to "change the course of history" by putting their imprimatur on the people's initiative.

"It is an awesome responsibility that history has placed on these illustrious men and women—the brightest and the best among our people—who are all here with us this evening," he said.

On their decision would literally depend "our nation's tomorrow," De Venecia said, and proceeded to argue for the abolition of the "gridlock-prone" presidential system to pave the way for the quick shift to a parliamentary form of government.

He said that without this change, the future of the Philippines could be authoritarianism and economic stagnation.

"What are we to say to the millions of our peasants still yoked to the land, to children in substandard schools, to young men and women who can find no new heroes they can look up to?" he said, adding:

"And how are we to console the millions of our men and women working in foreign lands—who, at every moment, ache for the warmth of their homes and the love of their spouses and their children? What comfort can we offer to those among our people whom development leaves behind?"

Make-or-break time

De Venecia said Philippine leaders should make politics "begin to work not just for politicians, and not just for the rich, but for every citizen."

He said the fate of the proposed shift to a unicameral system was "make-or-break time."

He warned of continuing underdevelopment amid fears of military rule and destabilization, saying the Philippines was the only Asian country facing insurgencies on three fronts—military coup plotters, Maoist rebels and Moro secessionists.

'Supremely independent'

In an interview, the Speaker said he was not trying to exert pressure on the justices now deliberating on the people's initiative petition of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and Sigaw ng Bayan.

"We will be rebuffed [by the justices] if we do so," he told the INQUIRER.

De Venecia described the Supreme Court as a "supremely independent" institution that could "save this nation" from the "economic cycle of boom and bust."

But in his speech, his message was clear: "Forgive me, justices and my countrymen, I feel so deeply about the decision you are about to take that I cannot forbear addressing you directly. Please, I beg you, don't underestimate the gravity of the decision you are about to take."

"I beg you to decide these questions with your hearts and minds. Whether our country is to have a new beginning or stay in the same political rut in which it has been trapped this half century, this question is in your hands."

De Venecia said he did not know what the high court's decision would be.

"All I know is that, over these next 10, 15 years, our country must complete its modernization—or forever remain a backwater of East Asia. All I know is that we who claim to lead this country—as government executives, lawmakers and members of the judiciary—must send out a message of hope to our people," he said.

'A cloistered job'

Justice Secretary Gonzalez disclosed that then President Corazon Aquino had once offered him the chance to become chief justice, but he preferred to take the post of Tanodbayan.

"My impression of the post of a chief justice is that it is a cloistered job. I'd rather be where the action is," he said.

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Recruiters buck 'super wage' for 'supermaids'

By Jerome Aning

THEY WANT FILIPINO DOMESTICS to become into "supermaids" but are not willing to give them "super salaries."

Labor recruiters are up in arms against the government's plan to raise the wages of Filipino domestics deployed abroad to at least $400, saying this will only encourage illegal recruitment and kill the legitimate recruitment business in the country.

The Federated Associations of Manpower Exporters complained that they were "not consulted nor heard" when the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration decided to upgrade the floor salary of domestics working abroad.

The group deploys Filipino domestic helpers to the Middle East, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

"The supermaid salary ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo at the height of the Lebanon crisis will distort salary scales for all categories in the POEA table and will increase the illegal deployment of domestic helpers to Middle East countries," said Emmanuel Geslani, a consultant of several Manila-based recruitment agencies.

Even skilled laborers like carpenters, plumbers, electricians and mechanics in the Middle East receive a minimum wage of only $300, he said.

The POEA resolution raising the wage rate has been approved by the agency's governing board and needs only the signature of Labor Secretary Arturo Brion.

The POEA has been conducting dialogues with recruiters on how to implement the resolution but was met with stiff opposition.

Aside from raising the wages, the POEA will also increase the minimum age for domestics from 21 to 25 years and impose a "no-deduction policy," meaning no placement fee will be imposed on all domestic helpers leaving the country.

The recruiters said they fully supported the government's "Supermaid" program, which gives returning maids skills assessment and training for the improvement.

They said they also do not oppose the higher salary provided the Philippine government secures bilateral agreements with the host countries to honor the $400 salary and properly implements the work contract.

Geslani, however, said no Middle East country would likely agree to the new wage hike and would simply get domestic helpers from other countries like Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Thailand.

He also said unscrupulous foreign employers might just resort to illegal means to lure Filipino domestics willing to work for less than $400.

This could be done either by directly hiring Filipinos already abroad or by spiriting out recruits from the Philippines by disguising them as "tourists" with the aid of "escort syndicates" in the airports, he said.

"The entire recruitment industry is still keeping the lines of communication with the government open and is still pleading for the non-implementation of this unreasonable wage hike," Geslani said.

Gov't urged to take back ratification, let women work nights

THE EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION OF THE Philippines (Ecop) has asked the government to withdraw its ratification of an international convention prohibiting women from working 11-hour nights.

According to Ecop president Rene Soriano, night work for women in the Philippines has been considered illegal under international law for the past 20 years because the country's Labor Code was in violation of the provisions of the International Labor Organization's Convention No. 89 on Night Work (for Women).

The Philippine Labor Code's Article 130 prohibits women from working between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. in the industrial sector and from midnight to 6 a.m. in commercial establishments.

By comparison, Article 2 of Convention 89 provides that women without distinction of age shall not be employed at night in any public or private industrial undertaking for at least 11 consecutive hours, of which seven shall be between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. "except for undertakings in which only members of the same family are employed."

The Philippine Senate, which ratified the Convention in 1953, is considering several bills proposing to expand the exemptions to the night work prohibition in the Labor Code so that female workers, such as those in call centers, would be legally allowed to work at night.

Soriano recommended the junking of ILO Convention 89 altogether during the hearings on the proposed bills.

Renouncing Convention 89 would at the very least free the Philippine government from repeatedly having to justify to the ILO why it was not adhering to the Convention.

Jerome Aning

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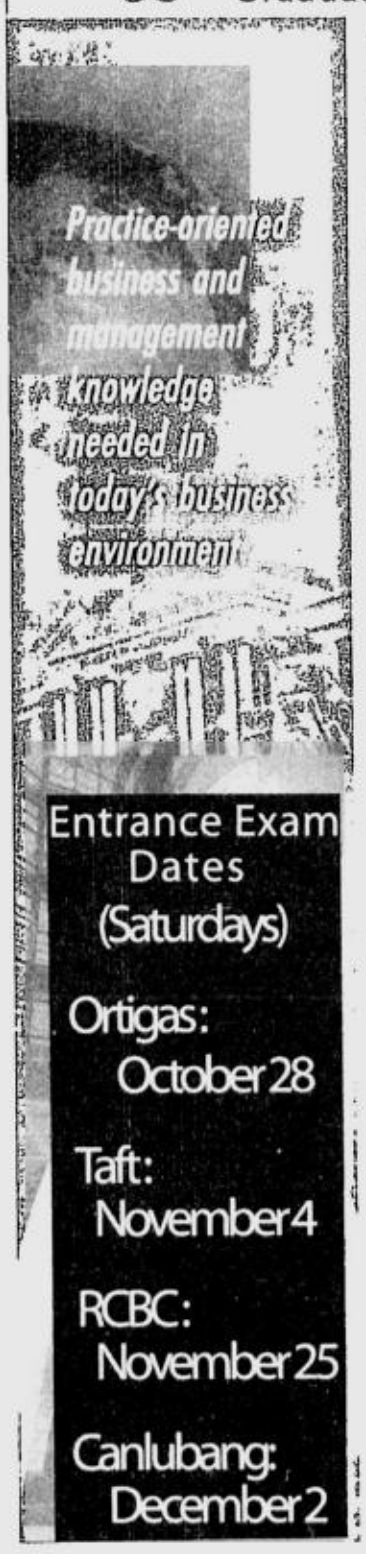

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Police hose down protesting Quezon farmers, children

LUCENA CITY—SOME 200 MILITANT farmers and their families, among them little children, were dispersed by heavily armed policemen with water cannons yesterday morning for demonstrating in front of the walled mansion of a big landlord in Quezon to demand agrarian reform.

Over 40 protesters were arrested and some children were reported to have gotten lost in the melee that erupted in front of the family compound of the late Domingo Reyes in the outskirts of this city along the highway in Barangay Cotta. The protesting farmers and their sympathizers had marched from Villa Reyes, a huge coconut plantation in San Narciso town in the Bondoc peninsula where the late landlord's son Victor is the mayor.

Justice demanded

"We came here only to demand justice for the peasants. But what we received was naked terrorism from state security forces. They didn't even spare little children from their brutality," Pedro "Tata Pido" Gonzalez, a known Quezon activist leader, told the INQUIRER.

The farmers were demanding a change in the prevailing sharing system from 25-75 in favor of the landlord to 75-25 in favor of the farmers.

Share tenancy was abolished in the Philippines decades ago and a Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program is supposedly in place. Coconut farms are not excluded from the land redistribution law.

According to Guillermo Bautista, chair of the militant Katipunan ng Samahang Magsasaka-Timog Katalugan, they intended to set up a "people's camp" in front of the Reyes compound until Monday, hoping to have an audience with Mayor Reyes and to attend a scheduled dialogue with members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Forcible dispersal

But an hour later, heavily armed members of a Special Weapons and Tactics team, backed by a fire truck, moved in and forcibly dispersed the peasant campers, many with young children in tow.

Mothers carrying their crying children were chased to a school building behind the Reyes compound. A farmer leader, Domingo Escamillas, chair of Pinag-isang Lakas ng Magbubukid sa Quezon, was also arrested by the police.

Mayor Reyes,on the other hand, chided the protesters for conducting a demonstration in front of an "empty family mansion" and not in San Narciso town where the family resides.

"Most protesters are not even our tenants but only an agitated handful," the mayor said in a mobile phone interview from San Narciso.

He reiterated that the agrarian situation in Villa Reyes in San Narciso was being perennially agitated by nongovernment organizations.

Senior Supt. Reuben Theodore Sindac, Lucena police chief, said Escamillas would be charged with trespassing, public scandal and conducting a rally without a permit.

Police also assailed the protesters for using children as shields.

Gov't's efforts undermined

Last June, an international fact-finding mission of nongovernment peasant and human rights organizations reported that powerful landowners, abetted by armed groups, including state agents, were seriously undermining the government's efforts to pursue agrarian reform. The investigation covered 18 landholdings in the Bondoc peninsula, Western Visayas and southern Mindanao.

The study said that in many cases, government forces, such as local units of the Philippine National Police and of the Armed Forces of the Philippines were found siding with big landlords and actively involved in violating the rights of agrarian reform beneficiaries. The report also noted that the government had not fully and completely distributed the lands targeted for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS
Alice Favila, Livelihood Program chair of the International Bazaar Foundation, hands over to Fr. Pierre Tritz the IBF's donation to ERDA Tech Foundation covering the scholarships of four graduating students at the ERDA Technical and Vocational Secondary School. Looking on are Lovely Romulo, IBF overall chair, Jane Abacan, Nora Salazar and Celia Quion. ERDA Tech was established in 1993 by Fr. Tritz. Its high school provides a vocational as well as academic education to the poor following Department of Education guidelines.

AFP resumes 'guns for cash' scheme

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY HAS ALLOCATED at least P100 million for its "balikbaril" program meant to induce New People's Army (NPA) rebels to surrender with their firearms.

"We are resuming our 'balikbaril' program. We have an initial allocation of P100 million," Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said after a command conference in Camp Aguinaldo.

He said the funds would come from the Office of the President and from the AFP's savings.

Under the program, rebel returnees would be paid for every firearm they surrender, including ammunition.

The military has recently doubled the amount it would pay for surrendered firearms. It said the former rebels could use the cash as capital to go into business and other forms of livelihood.

According to a military table, an M-16 Armalite rifle that was previously bought from the rebels for P18,000 will now be worth P35,000.

Other high-powered firearms will be priced at between P18,000 and P30,000, while small machine guns, pistols and grenade launchers will be worth P8,000 to P10,000.

Revolvers, pistols and shotguns will be worth between P3,000 and P6,000.

Esperon also announced that the military will recruit 3,000 new soldiers and about 8,000 paramilitary Cafgus (Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units) in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to crush the communist insurgency by 2010.

He said the AFP was authorized by the President to form a maximum of 90 Cafgu units with a total of 7,920 members in NPA-infested areas.

The militant Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), meanwhile, said the government should have better use for the P518 million it will be spending for the Cafgu recruits over the next three years.

It said that based on the present P60 daily allowance paid to a Cafgu member, the government will be spending about P480,000 a day, P14.4 million a month, or P172.6 million a year to maintain the paramilitary units.

Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said the money could be better used for social services.

Farming losing appeal, says Bhutan exec

By Chito A. Fuentes
Inquirer Visayas

BILAR, BOHOL—FARMING AS A WAY OF LIFE is under threat from rapid industrialization and governments everywhere must not allow this to happen.

Bhutan Agriculture Minister Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup issued this warning at a congress of farmers from five nations who met in this agricultural town on Oct. 18-20 to observe World Food Day.

Noting that the younger generation of farmers was leaving the farms, Ngedup urged governments to find ways to make rural life more attractive to encourage the farmers to stay.

He said governments should give importance to farmers, support them and provide them with the environment needed to help them realize their aspirations.

About 500 people attended the three-day congress held at the Central Visayas State College of Agriculture, Forestry and Technology (CVSCAFT) here.

Ngedup was the keynote speaker at the event which was organized by the Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives from Community Empowerment (Searice), a nongovernment organization promoting community-based initiatives to address food security.

The congress also marked the launch of the Bilar grain, a native rice variety that local farmers are cultivating.

Aside from Bhutan and the host Philippines, the other countries represented in the three-day gathering were Thailand, Laos and Vietnam.

"Who doesn't have aspirations?" said Ngedup. For a farmer, the most important aspiration is self-sufficiency and food security, he said.

Beyond those, farmers also aspire for a better life for their children, he said.

"When you look at urban dwellers and see the luxuries that they enjoy, you aspire for that also," the minister noted.

Congress participant Eladio Jala agreed with Ngedup's observations, noting that there were fewer agriculture students enrolled at the CVSCAFT.

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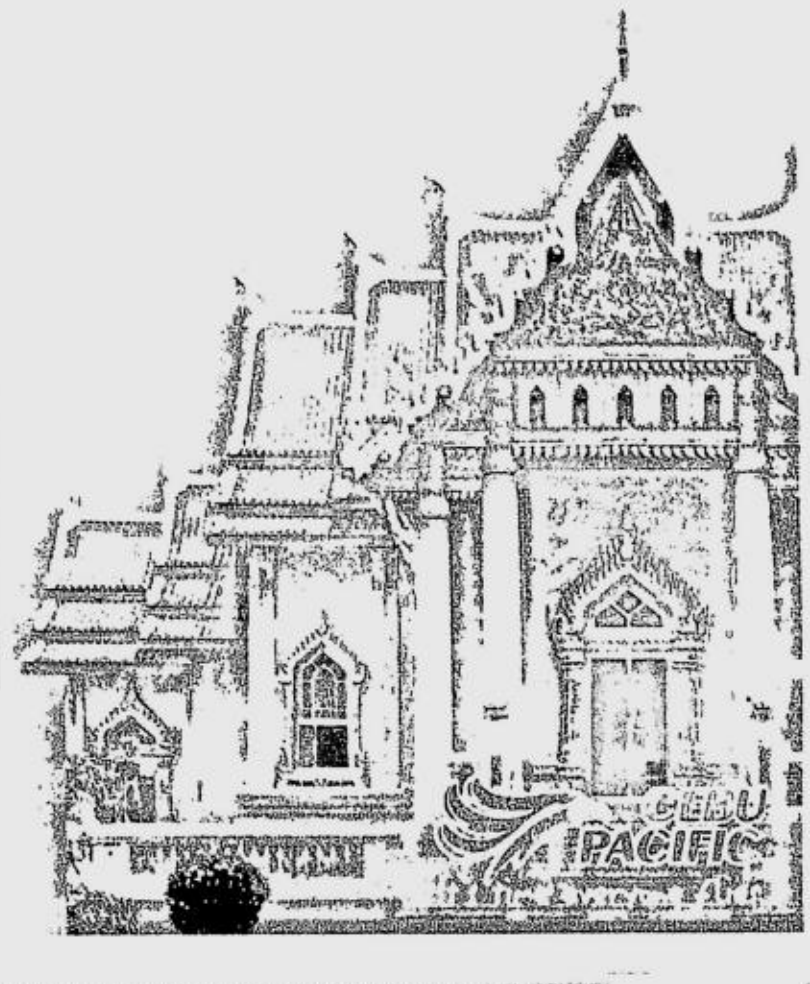

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2006

ISSN 0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 21 No. 316

OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
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•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

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Bad-hair myths

EDITORIAL

WHAT DOES KIM JONG-IL WANT? NOT SURPRISingly, the imaginative arts have outpaced reality, offering answers that make for good movies. Long before George W. Bush drafted North Korea—or to use its official but wholly imaginative name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—into his Axis of Evil, the country, often described as the world's last remaining Stalinist regime, already figured as international pop culture's convenient, and nuclear-armed, arch-villain.

Since North Korea exploded what many now believe was a nuclear device on Oct. 9, many myths already in circulation gained in velocity, especially in discussions among members of the political class.

The first myth, at least in this country, is that the Philippines—or more specifically, President Macapagal-Arroyo—has no business talking about North Korea; this misconception, however, has everything to do with criticism of the President and nothing to do with the national interest. True: we are not privy to the Six-Party Talks, and have no influence at all on politics on either side of the 38th parallel. But we are a responsible member of the international community; we have millions of our citizens working abroad; we have close and historic ties with South Korea. Why shouldn't we add our voice (as the late Foreign Secretary Blas Ople tried to do in his last months in office) to the chorus counseling both containment and engagement?

Two weeks after the event, we can see more clearly that the initial statement on the North Korean nuclear test that the President issued on the same day was not only the right thing to do; it was also the right thing to say. Malacañang raised serious concerns about the new risk to the international order: "We condemn in the strongest terms North Korea's nuclear device testing today." And again: "DPRK's act clearly poses a threat to the political, security and economic stability in Northeast Asia." But it also recognized North Korea's place in that same order: "DPRK has a shared stake with the community of nations in the continued peace in the region."

The second myth is that the United States bears all the blame for the nuclear test. To be sure, Bush blundered when he junked the Clinton administration's bilateral approach to the North Korea problem and, in its place, pushed a policy multilateral in theory but China-dependent in practice. Under the previous policy, North Korea remained (officially) committed to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty it had signed, in large part because it already had what it wanted: equality, under the one-on-one approach, with the world's lone superpower.

But it wasn't a cowboy in the White House who pushed the nuclear button on Oct. 9. And as an expert on Korean studies has also suggested, North Korea may not even be the world's last Stalinist regime, but the first national-militarist state in Asia since Japan in the 1930s. In that view, North Korea's organizing principle is not mere regime survival, but racial superiority. That would make what is called "nuclear sovereignty" a principal state objective—regardless of American foreign policy.

The third myth is that the world's nuclear powers have no right, or indeed any moral standing, to prevent other countries from acquiring nuclear weapons. But the terrible destructiveness of such weapons in fact makes it the responsibility of the current nuclear powers to prevent their spread. We are not talking here of mere guns or bolos, or appealing naively to the principle of equity; because the nuclear stockpile is massive enough to destroy the planet several times over, non-proliferation is the necessary next step.

Nuclear disarmament is the step beyond, but as the hopes generated by the collapse of communism in the 1990s remind us, making nuclear weapons irrelevant—that is, useless as an element of government policy—is already a boon.

The North Korean nuclear test severely reduces the international community's choices. China, Pyongyang's lone ally, must overcome its reluctance to put pressure on North Korea; the United States must reconsider its decision to forego one-on-one talks; Japan and South Korea must exercise the utmost self-restraint in responding to the nuclear crisis. And the Philippines? We must work closely with our Asean allies to serve the ends of both containment and engagement.

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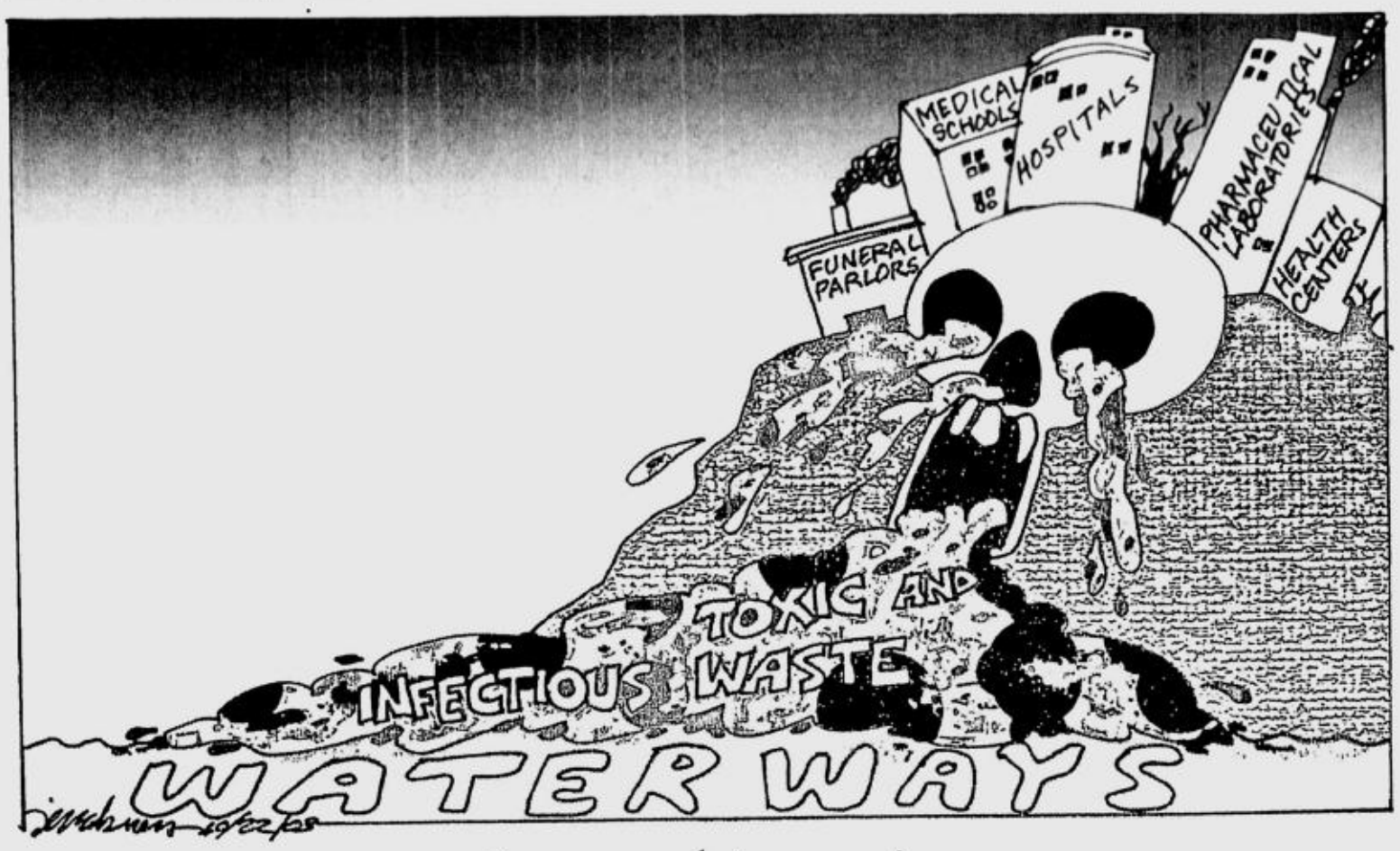

Censorship again

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE PROHIBITION BY THE MOVIE AND Television Review and Classification Board against the public exhibition of the documentary on the life of former President Joseph Estrada is yet another portent of the increasing repressiveness of the present government.

Like many other citizens, I had entertained the hope that Estrada's replacement by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would usher for us a future cleansed of the flaws of the past administration. That hope has been slaughtered in the disillusionments foisted on the people by GMA since she took over the Palace in 2001.

One may recall that Estrada, out of pique with the INQUIRER, imposed a ban on advertising in it by his political supporters, including his friends from the movie industry. But he did this on the strength of his political or personal influence and not officially as the lawful tenant of Malacañang.

It is different in the case of Ms Gloria, who is using her dubious official authority to entrench herself in power. And one of her petty methods seems to be to use the Board to further discredit her predecessor by preventing the exhibition of his life on TV while he languishes helplessly in the custody of the law.

I have no loyalty for Estrada whom I have criticized many times in this column, resulting in his disdaining me as one of his enemies. I am not. But even if I were, I would still be happy to defend him, as I'm doing now, when his rights as safeguarded by the Constitution are disregarded and betrayed.

All he wants to do is tell about his public life from the time he was elected as a municipal mayor and rose to become a senator, vice president and president, until he was ousted over his protest from his high position. Yet he has been denied this legitimate move that is protected by his freedom of expression as enshrined in the Bill of Rights.

The reason, according to the Board in X-rating the documentary, is that it tended "to threaten the political stability of the State, undermine the faith and confidence of the people in the government, and (be) libelous or defamatory, and (pertained) to matters that are sub judice in nature."

As a columnist in this paper, I could be charged with similar acts, which I do not consider offenses. Yet, in view of my comparatively insignificant position, I am not (yet) being discriminated against unlike the formidable Estrada. Estrada is being targeted because of his dangerous potential to derail the ambitious designs of Ms Arroyo.

The Board's decision is based mainly on its shallow argument that the Estrada show is critical of President Arroyo, who has control of the MTRCB.

The right to criticize is part and parcel of freedom of expression. It is in fact more significant than the right to agree or not to disagree. Disagreement makes democracy more vital and meaningful. "Compulsory unification of opinion," said the US Supreme Court in a famous case, "achieves only the unanimity of the graveyard." It is now settled that one of the important functions of freedom of expression is "to invite dispute."

It is this militant function that the Board would immobilize by banning the Estrada documentary and its indirect criticisms of his successor. It is this function that the Board would castrate because it might impair popular faith and confidence in her erratic and dishonest government. It is this function that the Board has disallowed because it would "threaten the political stability of the State," which it obsequiously identifies as Ms Arroyo.

Censorship is anathema in the free society, but the MTRCB would blandly claim it like an assignment from a trustful Heaven. Arbitrariness and pretentiousness are not divine gifts for the Board to assert against persons who are slightly "lower than angels." These dubious powers cannot prevail against the right to criticize as the bedrock of the democratic ambience.

This right is demandable in this Republic no matter how tattered its image and forlorn its future. Fear cannot stifle it nor punishment regiment it. It is an impartial virtue available to every person in this land, the brilliant and the moron, poet and peasant alike, and tyrants and charlatans and scoundrels of every stripe.

Apprehensions of its improper exercise should not impair the right to criticize. The alleged libels and defamations sought to be suppressed in the Estrada documentary should not justify the suppression of the documentary itself. As has been truly said of this great republican instrument for reflection and change:

"To persuade others to his own point of view, the pleader, as we know, at times resorts to exaggeration, to vilification of men who have been, or are prominent in church or state, or even to false statements. But the people of this nation have ordained in the high light of history that in spite of the probability of excesses and abuses, these liberties are, in the long view, essential to the enlightened opinion and right conduct on the part of the citizens of democracy."

I hope President Arroyo will reverse the decision of the MTRCB, even if favorable to her, as President Fidel Ramos before her allowed the showing of "Schindler's List" and "The Piano" in 1994 without the deletion of the parts considered objectionable by the censors at that time.

True service

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A MAN ON HIS way to have his grandfather's clock repaired. As he turned a corner, he bumped into a man, sending the latter sprawling on the pavement. After receiving profuse apologies, the man on the ground got up, dusted himself off, and snarled, "Why don't you wear a watch like everybody else?"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 10, 42-45), Jesus reminds His disciples that when they serve and move around, they should not carry big clocks which make them conspicuous and heavy. They are not to make their authority felt, and they are not to lord it over as they serve. A small watch will do. In that way, they do not bump people and send them sprawling on the ground. True service is humble service.

* * *

Our so-called public servants would do well to listen to Jesus' words today: "Anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all." It seems to me that Jesus' concept of service, which is conveniently mouthed by candidates during election campaigns, is discarded and forgotten soon after the candidate has won. Sad to say, but for some people, an "increase" in position translates into a corresponding "decrease" in idealism and sense of mission.

* * *

"Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy in this world." I am afraid many of our so-called public servants and people of authority have to do a lot of explaining regarding the delay in the payment of—or even failure to pay—their "rent." Many of our public servants are just public, but not servants. They enjoy all the perks and the privileges (compliments of the people) but they do not deliver the goods and services (their commitment to the people).

* * *

"The man who serves, deserves." This should be the battle cry of our people—for all those who occupy positions of authority. This should be our guiding rule and principle in our choice of leaders. Let us look for deserving, not self-serving leaders!

* * *

They say that there are thee kinds of Christians who serve. They are: (1) the Rowboat Christians—those who have to be pushed; (2) the Sailboat Christians—those who always go with the wind; and (3) the Steamboat Christians—those who make up their mind, and go regardless of wind and weather. Along with the question "Am I serving?" we also must raise the equally important question, "Why am I serving?"

* * *

St. Ignatius of Loyola reminds us what true service is all about with this prayer: "Teach us good Lord to serve thee as thou deservest—to give and not count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not seek for rest; to labor and not ask for any reward, save that for knowing that we do thy will."

* * *

Think about it: "At the close of life, the question will not be how much have you got, but how much have you given; not how much have you won; but how much have you done; not how much have you saved, but how much have you sacrificed; not how much were you honored, but how much have you served." (Nathan Schaeffer)

* * *

Inviting you to join "A Day of Eucharistic Renewal." Anne, the Lay Apostle will speak on the rescue mission of Jesus Christ, the Returning King, and his call for us to walk the path of holiness as the world moves from the present age of disobedience to an age of obedience. The Manila conference will be on Nov. 19, 2006, at the Plenary Hall, PICC, 7:30-3 p.m. with his Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales as the main celebrant of the Eucharist, at 2 p.m. The conference for priests will be in Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows on Nov. 20. The Iloilo conference will be on Nov. 22 and 23 at the Colegio de San Jose auditorium. For more details please contact 632-1001 and (033) 320-5059.

* * *

Join the BINGO IV for the benefit of Oasis of Love, Mission Angels, Santuario de San Vicente de Paul, and Joy in Living Foundation. It starts with a Holy Mass at 12 noon, at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The grand prize is P1 million. Also at stake are three brand-new cars. For details please call 414-7044; 727-1160.

* * *

We will have a Healing Mass at the Sacred Heart Hall (near Baguio General Hospital) at 6 p.m. on Oct. 26, 2006, organized by Centennial Rotary president Oyan Villanueva. Fatima Soriano, the 13-year-old blind girl, has been invited to give her message and sing her songs of hope and joy.

* * *

Today is World Mission Sunday. We remember and pray for all the missionaries who have left home, country and family for the sake of the Gospel, braving deprivation, loneliness and even persecution. Theirs is hidden, simple and humble service. Let us pray for them. Let us help them spiritually and financially. (Please contact the SVD Mission Office 414-7044; 721-7457; 727-1160 on how you could participate in world mission.) Let us also renew our missionary commitment whoever we are, wherever we are. Yes, we all are missionaries.

* * *

Allotting a few minutes every day to reflect on our daily activities enlightens our mind, text ON MOMENTS to 2948 for Globe/Sun or 3940 for Smart to receive "moments of reflection" on your mobile phone. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, teach me true, honest and humble service. Amen.

Obama blitz

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—WE FLEW INTO THE windy city more than a week ago, just in time to witness the first flurry of snow with outside temperatures dropping to 37 degrees F. From time to time, the sun would come out to melt the snowflakes but the winds from Lake Michigan made sure that we kept our thick layers of clothing on regardless of how bright the sun shone.

Two weeks ago, I wrote about Ms Sadato Ogata, the head of the Japan International Cooperation Administration (JICA), and Barack Obama, the junior senator from Illinois. At that time, little did I realize that I would be able to meet the senator, shake his hand and get his autograph on his book, like I was some star-struck movie fan. But that's exactly what happened last Wednesday.

As the midterm November elections in the United States approach, Obama appears to be carrying out a massive public relations blitz that could catapult him into higher positions of national leadership especially if the Democrats regain control of the House or the Senate or both, as most polls have indicated. The Foley scandal—Florida Rep. Mark Foley resigned after his e-mails, indicating more than normal interest in the young men who carry out errands for House members, were made public—and the deepening disillusionment of Americans with the war in Iraq have made many Republicans vulnerable in their bid for reelection.

Obama, who is currently the only African-American in the US Senate, has just launched his latest book "The Audacity of Hope." This follows his best-selling 1995 memoir "Dreams From My Father" which I mentioned in an earlier column. A highly publicized book tour began in Chicago last Tuesday at Borders, a bookstore on Michigan Avenue.

The following day, which turned out to be his 14th wedding anniversary, he was scheduled to make an appearance at a Barnes & Noble outlet in Skokie at 11:30 a.m. As early as 6 a.m., people were lining up just to get tickets that would allow them to go up to the senator and have him autograph their copy of his book. We reached the line at 8:30 a.m. and our number was 124.

Obama showed up promptly at 11:30 a.m. and immediately proceeded to give a brief talk mainly to explain the origin of the title of his book. It comes from a sermon delivered by the pastor of his church in Chicago 15 years ago. And he used it in his keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in 2004. Basically, "the audacity of hope" line upheld the idea that in spite of all the problems and difficulties confronting us in our daily lives or in the life of our nation, we must continue to remain brave and courageous, always daring to pursue new initiatives that can bring about changes for the better.

When I got to the senator, I introduced myself as a visitor from the Philippines, gave him a copy of my INQUIRER column on him, which he graciously received saying that he would like to read it. He then enthusiastically directed my daughter, Carmela, to take a snapshot of the moment. After signing my copy of his book, we shook hands and who knows, maybe, one day I can say that I met the first African-American president of the United States when he was still a neophyte senator from Illinois.

Before the book launching tour, Obama was the guest of Oprah Winfrey on her morning show on ABC where he was asked point blank if he would announce his candidacy for president on her show. He replied, "I don't think I could say no to you. Oprah, you're my girl." The day after, he appeared on "The Today Show" on NBC. He has also appeared on "Larry King Live" and is scheduled for "Meet the Press." He is on the cover of Men's Vogue magazine and, today, Time features him for the first time on its cover with the bold words: "Why Barack Obama should be the Next President."

Obama is married to Michelle Robinson who, like her husband, is a Harvard Law School graduate. They have two children: Malia, 8, and Sasha, 5. Michelle is presently one of 16 vice presidents of the University of Chicago Hospitals. Two months after her husband was elected senator in 2004, she was promoted to her present post and her salary tripled from $121, 910 to $316,962 per annum. In an article in the Chicago Tribune last September, Hospitals spokesman John Easton said that her salary was in line with the compensation received by the other vice presidents. Michael Riordan who was a former University of Chicago Hospitals president said Michelle's promotion had nothing to do with her husband being a US senator. "She was hired before Barack was Barack and she is worth her weight in gold," he added.

Incidentally, this issue was the subject of conversation among a few ladies at the book launching. I couldn't help overhearing their comments, which were mostly positive.

I haven't read Obama's book completely, but there is a passage that I think all our countrymen should keep in mind if we are to maintain our sense of balance during periods of doubt and pessimism. Obama says: "A government that truly represents Americans (substitute Filipinos)—that truly serves Americans (Filipinos)—will require a different kind of politics. That politics will need to reflect our lives as they are actually lived ... It will have to be constructed from the best of our traditions and will have to account for the darker aspects of our past ... And we will need to remind ourselves, despite all our differences, just how much we share: common hopes, common dreams, a bond that will not break."

Scaring 'Gen Txt'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE PREMISE BEHIND THE MOVIE "TXT"—A young woman haunted by text messages, calls and pictures from her supposedly dead boyfriend—may have been tried before, but it's still a novel approach to scaring the bejeesus out of its audience.

"*Huwag mong sagutin! Huwag mong buksan!* (Don't answer it! Don't open it!)" moviegoers seated behind us begged Angel Locsin each time her cell phone rang. But if she did resist the siren call of her beeping device, there wouldn't have been much of a movie, would there? And so, even if she knows she'll be jumping out of her skin with every menacing message and sinister image, she can't help but punch the danged buttons. Once, after a particularly good scare, she hurls the gadget against the wall and it breaks into pieces. But in the next scene, she hears a familiar beep and finds the haunted phone in her pocket, intact.

Is this the filmmakers' commentary on how ubiquitous and irresistible modern technology has become for this generation? In another scene, a similarly ruined cell phone reconstructs itself and even manages to magnetize itself to the victim's hand. I'm sure parents, frustrated at how cell phones have come to be seemingly glued to their children's hands, know the feeling.

I had come to watch "Txt" because it was the first movie of novice director Michael Tuviera. The script was written by Tuviera's wife Penny and her brother Paul Daza, who sometimes writes TV/movie reviews for this paper. But while I came prepared for cutting-edge filmmaking, "Txt" turned out to be a lot more conventional—in structure, visuals and approach.

* * *

THE MOVIE sets itself firmly in the world of "Gen Txt." Dennis Trillo, who plays Angel's supportive friend, works in a call center, while Angel and her best friend, played by Julia Clarete, are employed as caregivers in a retirement home.

But in spirit, the movie is still set firmly in old-fashioned commercial context, offering its target audience nothing new by way of content, style or mood. If anything, I found the atmospherics lacking. I thought it could have used more innovative lighting, edgier music and effects, crackling dialogue. Maybe the young Tuviera was consciously bucking the "Asian horror" look and trend, shooting his story against a backdrop of normality. But was banality part of his aim?

Having said all of the above, I must say "Txt" is still a creditable achievement for a first-time filmmaker. Commercial compromise, after all, is the first lesson all novices in the world of movies must learn. I'm willing to give Tuviera and his team another chance, and wish them more freedom, more courage and more creativity the next time around.

* * *

INNOVATION is the last thing to look for in "Till I Met You," the latest cinematic pairing of Regine Velasquez and Robin Padilla. The most obvious thing in this movie, which telegraphs its plot points frequently, is that this surely must be the last rom-com for this pair. While I've never been a fan of Padilla's, I've always enjoyed Regine's outings in lighthearted romances, especially when she's paired with Aga Muhlach. But "Till I Met You" unkindly draws attention to Regine's fading youth, making her look decidedly matronly in some scenes. A more discriminating eye for future scripts is called for.

There's also a disturbing lack of chemistry between the two leads. Both do their darndest to cater to the audience's hunger for *kilig*, but they are most effective in individual scenes, such as when Regine manages to out-drink Robin and lets loose with an ear-splitting burp.

Director Mark Reyes also deserves to be censured for playing a dirty trick on the audience, letting the credits run before the movie's proper end. It's a cheap shot and should be banned by the MTRCB for unnecessarily messing with the audience's minds.

* * *

UNLIKE Mon Tulfo, I cannot call Tom del Castillo a confidant and mentor because, obviously, unlike Mon, I have not racked up enough libel cases to merit a close personal relationship. But in the few times we have dealt with each other, I found Tom a most reassuring presence during stressful times. Once, I arrived late for a swearing-in with a Makati prosecutor and found him waiting coolly in the lobby of the Hall of Justice, smiling indulgently while I breathed out my apologies, then patiently escorting me back up to the prosecutor's office.

No way to treat one of the most prominent and respected lawyers in the country, but dealing with the INQUIRER's reporters, editors and columnists and our individual quirks must have been all in a day's work for Tom. Knowing Tom and his firm (Ortega, Del Castillo, Bacorro, Odulio, Calma and Carbonell) were on our side, and ready to defend us should anyone take offense, made it much easier to take on powerful and influential personages in the country. And, of course, knowing that the INQUIRER would foot the bill!

What I appreciated most about Tom was his reasoned and reasonable approach to our libel cases, choosing to argue from legal points while we tended to resort to high-flown rhetoric in our defense.

At his wake Friday, Tom's widow Ruby told me she was hearing "so many good things about my husband" that she realized it was possible to be both a successful lawyer and a good man. And that, I suppose is a testimonial that Tom would have appreciated more than any other.

Still on lawyers, congratulations to the partners and associates of the law firm Kapunan Lotilla Flores Garcia and Castillo, led by good friend Lorna Patajo-Kapunan. The firm was launched with cocktails last Friday, and their offices were packed with well-wishers, including delegations from various women's and civic groups which count Lorna as a valuable member and supporter.

Rule of law

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

WE HAVE BEEN HEARING THE PHRASE "RULE of law" much too often since Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assumed the presidency. In the context in which it is used, it appears to be a way of telling people that when they are penalized for being out of line or falling short of the standard, it is nothing personal. It is not because of who they are. It is just the way things are. *Dura lex sed lex*, so the mantra goes. The law is hard, but it is the law.

This representation of the law as an anonymous force standing above and regulating the affairs of human beings is one of the necessary fictions achieved by modern societies. The automaticity of the law's operations confers upon it an impersonal and almost inanimate quality. Yet everyone knows that behind the law are human beings with motives and will. The law's basic function, says the theorist Niklas Luhmann, is to stabilize people's expectations of what is right and wrong. Modern legal systems succeed in this not by pretending that the law is self-evident, or that those who interpret it are gifted with extraordinary insight. They succeed by making the law apply to everyone.

One of the big problems of our society is precisely this—that the law says something, but culture dictates something else. Culture trumps the law because the rationality of the law finds little support in our daily experience.

The practice of maintaining so-called "ghost" and "15-30" employees on the payroll, for which Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay is being charged, is a case in point. It exists in a variety of work contexts. I first saw it among the stevedoring work gangs on the Manila waterfront in the 1960s. They have a term for "ghost workers" there—"*pitik*." The wages of the *pitik* are collected by the "*cabo*" who shares them with his immediate bosses. This practice is found at almost all levels of the public bureaucracy as a mechanism for raising slush funds or rewarding political workers. The money that is set aside in this manner is taken for granted in our political culture as part of the spoils of political contests.

Corrupt practices like this are so integral to our patronage-based political system that it is nearly impossible to get rid of them. That is why it is a cause for celebration when the government of the day wages a campaign to prosecute public officials who enrich themselves from such misuse of public funds.

But the rule of law is not strengthened when it is wielded like a weapon against our enemies. It is reinforced by universally and consistently applying it. Indeed, in societies like ours, we add to the law's majesty by letting its axe fall in the first instance on those to whom we are closest. Nothing erodes the rule of law more than when it is invoked by the very ones who brazenly and routinely manipulate it.

Social theory says that the institutionalization of the rule of law is not something that is achieved overnight. It comes as a result of modernity—the gradual differentiation or separation of the various spheres of social life, e.g., religion, science, economy, politics, law, etc. Perhaps the differentiation between law and politics is the slowest to happen, for after all, law-making is an aspect of politics. And indeed, judges owe their appointment to politicians. But if the law is to effectively regulate politics, as it must in modern society, the judicial system has to attain a certain level of autonomy. This autonomy is realized only when courts are insulated from politics.

Viewed from this perspective, one can only feel horrified by the manner in which politicians exert all kinds of pressure on our courts in order to secure a favorable ruling. It is irresponsible, if not mindless. A few days ago, President Arroyo used the occasion of a dinner for Supreme Court justices and their foreign counterparts to harp on the pressing need for Charter change, knowing fully well that the issue is pending before the justices. If she permits herself to publicly pressure the Supreme Court like this, one can imagine what kind of covert pressure she uses on the justices to get her way on this and many other issues.

Ironically, in the same speech, the nation's highest politician also said: "Politics dominates our lives way out of proportion to the real needs of the people and a change in politics must be accompanied by a change in our system of government. To that end, we seek to amend our Constitution so as to modernize, if we are to build a modern Philippines."

A day after Ms Arroyo spoke, it was Speaker Jose de Venecia's turn to publicly plead with the Supreme Court justices in the same forum to support the bid to change the Constitution. While he did not expressly refer to the issue of Charter change by people's initiative, his words left no doubt about where he stood and what he was championing. "I beg you to decide these questions with your hearts and minds. Whether our country is to have a new beginning or stay in the same political rut in which it has been trapped this half century, this question is in your hands."

Ms Arroyo is right about the effects of politics on our lives, but wrong about modernity. Modernity is not just something you write into a constitution. Modernity is a whole way of life that a nation grows into, and politicians like Ms Arroyo and De Venecia are its biggest enemies.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Know your enemy

IF KINGSLEY AMIS WAS RIGHT IN SAYING THAT THERE is little point in writing if you can't annoy anyone, then Filipinos must be producing geniuses of modern literature. But Kingsley Amis was knighted for his writing, and here in the Philippines, annoying people doesn't usually lead to some sort of tangible change. It means you may get killed for it, but very little else.

My grandfather was a journalist. There was always this reckless air about him, the dramatic appeal of a cowboy thundering into the fray, pistols drawn at marauding bandits. It appealed to me, and even if I haven't been in the business for long—my "Press" card has yet to be laminated—I can see the pistols cocked. The difference is that now, it's not the reporters who are doing the aiming.

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

For the third year in succession, the Philippines has won the honor of being the second most dangerous country in the world for journalists. The number of journalists whose bylines will no longer be seen is rising at a speed that is rivaled only by Iraq. Marlene Esperat, journalist and anti-corruption activist, gunned down in front of her daughter and two sons in March 2005. George Benaojan, radio presenter, 27, shot three times outside a Talisay City market by a gunman with a .45-caliber pistol in August 2004. Rolando "Dodong" Morales, radio host on DXMD, brutally murdered by eight unidentified men near the city of Polomolok on July 3, 2005. Rolly Cañete, 60-year-old radio host, shot by a motorcycle-riding gunman in Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur on Jan. 20, 2006. George and Maricel Vigo, journalists and human rights activists, killed in Kidapawan on June 19, 2006. Armando Pace, radio host often threatened for his criticism of local politicians and drug-trafficking, murdered in Digos on July 18, 2006.

This alarming state is due, as Reporters Without Borders puts it, to a "culture of impunity." It is a situation "for which senior government officials share the blame," a culture that has allowed the murders of so many journalists throughout the country. Of the dozens of journalists killed since 1986, only four cases have led to convictions, but none of the masterminds have been put in jail.

Pain of death is not the only threat. Just last year, the National Bureau of Investigation charged a printing press with inciting to sedition for printing out posters of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo portrayed as Valentina. In a video lecture called "Knowing the Enemy," the Armed Forces of the Philippines included the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines in the list of "enemies of the state." There is a proposal to open Philippine media to foreign ownership, and a bizarre report that Malacañang plans to appoint retired AFP Chief of Staff Generoso Senga as chair of NBN Channel 4. The First Gentleman, whose title is an insult to every gentleman from Rhett Butler to Saladin, has been swinging the libel law with the delicacy of a caveman with a club. At last count, he has filed 43 complaints against journalists, editors and publishers, demanding a total of P70 million in damages.

The French used to divide society into three estates. Church and king made up the first estate, the lords the second, and the people the third. Edmund Burke is said to have once announced that although there were three estates in the Parliament, "in the Reporters' Gallery yonder, there sat a fourth estate more important than they all." Today, it is still the press that is considered the fourth estate, and its loyalty, ideally—for every profession has its bad apples—is not to any single estate, but to the truth.

I'm told that there's some sort of global order in the world now, where justice, freedom and the pursuit of happiness are the norms of civilized society. Maybe it's true for London, or New York, or in any of the hundreds of other cities in dozens of other countries that have the luxury of believing their heads of state have been elected to their position. But this is the Philippines, the country that considers corruption a natural attribute of politicians, so much so that in Negros, an honest mayor is whispered about with the same incredulous awe as a straight man in a male beauty pageant.

For a while, I was dogged by the conviction that journalism has become futile, that people will die, lives will be destroyed and the world will go its happy way to hell no matter what anyone says. A couple of weeks ago, a Mr. Quijano left me a message at the Inquirer office. He had read a story I'd written about a refugee center for those targeted by the military, and he wanted to help. When I called him at home, his daughter answered, and shouted for "Pa" to pick up the phone. There was a baby crying in the background. Mr. Quijano said he had a little money set aside that he wanted to donate. He said it was only P2,000, and that he wished he could give more, but it was money that had taken him a long time to save. He was a retired government employee with a tired voice, but he was set on sending his P2,000. And he did..

There is a point when people will say enough is enough. Filipinos withstood 14 years of Marcos, then astonished the world when they risked tank and terror when Ninoy Aquino was assassinated. Filipinos were content to watch senators duke it out during Estrada's impeachment proceedings, but when 11 senators made a mockery of the process in front of millions of viewers, Filipinos took to the streets. Many believe that Ms Arroyo cheated in the elections, and many say it doesn't matter. But day by day, as the death count rises, as more journalists are killed, as leftists and ideologues and human rights advocates are harassed and tortured because of their beliefs, even the gentlest of people are beginning to be angry. The government's brutal campaign to clamp down on dissent is what feeds dissent.

In 2002, there was a speech delivered before the Manila Standard during its 14th anniversary. It was an impassioned address, much applauded, much quoted, especially since it was delivered soon after the Edsa II victory. The speech was a celebration of press freedom, a toast to a relentless, fearless press that deprived an aging action hero of his starring role:

"You cannot kill an idea," said the keynote speaker. "Neither can you rule on a throne of bayonets—that was the history of the first Edsa. And political administrations may come and go, but the truth—and the need of the people to know the truth—will always be there and can never be suppressed."

It's been four years since Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo delivered that speech. Perhaps, it would be best if she borrows a copy of that speech from her speechwriter.

* * *

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TALK of the TOWN

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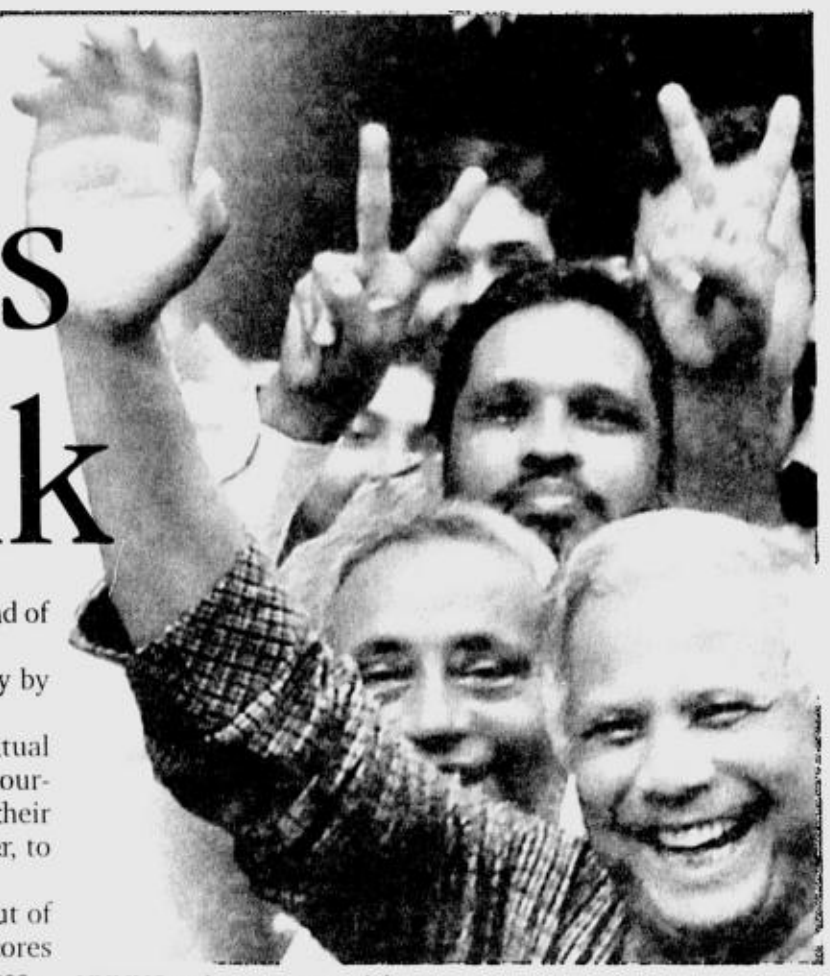
Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNERS

Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank



YUNUS and supporters celebrate. AFP

HAD MUHAMMAD YUNUS HEEDED THE ADVICE OF banks and the Bangladeshi government 30 years ago when he began giving out loans to the poor, he would not have helped lift millions of people out of poverty.

The government and the banks believed that extending loans to the poor was just wasting money. Not so as the experience of Grameen Bank, the financial institution put up by Yunus, over the past decades has shown.

In many ways, Grameen Bank (village bank) is what conventional banks are not. It extends loans to borrowers without the need for collateral. Its clients are the poor, mostly women, whom the banks consider bad borrowers. Beggars are even welcome to join its program. It also goes to the poor instead of clients going to its branches.

In addition, repayment of Grameen loans is made easy by splitting the amount in small weekly installments.

Grameen Bank also has created a system based on mutual trust, accountability, participation and creativity. It encourages borrowers to build their own pension funds, to send their children to school, to gain access to clean drinking water, to plant trees, among others.

The village bank has lifted close to 4 million people out of poverty. No wonder its practices have been adopted in scores of countries, including the Philippines and the United States.

His dream is audacious

By Mahfuz Anam
The Daily Star
Asia News Network

In 1976, Yunus started giving out loans to the poor against the advice of banks and government

DHAKA—WE ALL DREAM, BUT PROF. Muhammad Yunus' dream is audacious. He dreams of a world where poverty will be such a thing of the past that it will be exhibited in museums. Hyperbole? Not so for those who have read, talked or listened to him.

It is simple, he says. Don't try and tell people how to solve their poverty. Give them opportunity to bring out their inner entrepreneurial creativity and they will change their own lot. Every human being wants to improve his or her life. Our challenge is to let that urge bear fruit. And the way to do that is to give them loans—microcredit. Conventional banks give loans only to those who have capacity to repay.

That leaves out majority of the people of the world. That is the void that microcredit fills, and Grameen Bank experience has shown that poor people are at their innovative best when they are trusted and given money to change their own lot. They also have the best repayment record of 98 percent.

More than 30 years of experience with Grameen Bank and replication of his model in scores of countries have prompted Yunus to demand that access to credit be recognized as a human right, just as important as all other fundamental rights enshrined in the UN Charter of Human Rights.

Yunus' greatest achievement is that when the whole world was mesmerized with growth and globalization he kept his faith with the poor and kept on shouting from every platform he could get on: Take care of the most deprived and they will take care of the world. In awarding him and Grameen Bank the Nobel Peace Prize the world has, hopefully, recognized his core message.

Social indicators

Bangladesh today is recognized as one of the best performers in terms of social indicators among South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries and among the developing countries of the world. That has been possible because of what Yunus started in the early '70s. There were several other notable contributors who changed the scene of rural Bangladesh. But it was Yunus' untiring zeal and exceptional organizing ability that brought microcredit to the notice of the world as a serious alternative to the conventional methods of poverty eradication.

Yunus' faith in women's ability for entrepreneurship was also something quite extraordinary. With more than 96 percent of his borrowers being women, he clearly showed through example that if rural poverty is to be addressed women will have to be at the center of all efforts. As the main anchor of the family, if a woman is empowered then a mini social revolution takes place.

Women of Bangladesh proved him right more than 14 million times, the number of Grameen borrowers at present.

Salute

In one of my numerous visits with him I saw what struck me to be rather peculiar. Women borrowers who come to their weekly meetings stand straight, look up into the eyes of others and salute. I asked why the salute.

Yunus said, "Women in our villages seldom stand erect in public and never raise their face and look into the eyes of others when they talk. I introduced the salute because it forces them to stand straight and look at those she is talking to. Psychological and emotional impact of this small gesture is immeasurable."

What an amazing insight.

Not an NGO

People often confuse Grameen Bank with an NGO, which he proudly negates saying it is a bank that runs on sound commercial principles. It has the same rules, perhaps even more, than other commercial banks. But where it differs—and the difference is fundamental—it caters to those that commercial banks not only leave out but will never touch, simply because they are considered "unbankable."

Yunus has proven that the poor are not only "bankable" but more so than many rich borrowers, and if the world has to become fairer and more just, it is these so-called "unbankable" people who will do it.

Technology

His other exceptional contribution is his tireless advocacy for adoption of modern technology in rural life. His introduction of mobile telephone for rural women, where they earn money by providing telephone service, and his tireless advocacy of Internet access in rural areas by opening up VoIP service and of solar energy in villages speak of a man who not only focuses on the poor but sets his eyes on the most modern of technologies to change their lives.

Seldom has there been a better example of a man who blends the backward and the modern in such a practically workable relationship.

While he has devoted his life for the emancipation of the poor, he has never advocated charity. The freshness of his ideas come from a total adherence to commercial principles in serving the poor. Business, he says does not have to run on "profit motive" only but can also run on a motive to improve peoples' welfare. He believes that there can be a very happy marriage between commercial principles of capitalism and the basic urge of human beings to be associated with social good. Thus, he advocates a new business ethos that will give birth to socially oriented business enterprises.

Energizer

A very humble man, Yunus is accessible and meets whoever wants to see him, time permitting. One of his best qualities is his ability to inspire people. In Yunus' hands microcredit has become far bigger than a method of fighting poverty. It has become a way of restoring faith in people and their dignity, especially the poor and the oppressed. He is a great "energizer," invigorating people especially those who feel frustrated with all the negative things that are happening all around. He is full of ideas and loves to meet people who have new things to tell him.

Being a visionary, he has implementation foremost in his mind. He has no time for an idea that cannot be implemented. He moves about in an office microbus, works out of a non-air conditioned office sitting on a wooden chair behind a very ordinary rectangular table. His only "luxury" is shelves full of books that line his office walls. He is computer-savvy and answers his own e-mails promptly. Always smiling and full of life, he has a great sense of humor.

(Mahfuz Anam is editor in chief of the Daily Star, Bangladesh and board member of Asia News Network, a group 14 newspapers in the region, incluiding the Philippine Daily Inquirer.)

THE NOBEL laureate with daughter Dina

First loan he gave was $27 from own pocket

MUHAMMAD YUNUS was born in a village in Chittagong on June 28, 1940. He was the third of 14 children of Sufia Khatun and Mohammed Dula Miah, a jewelry merchant. But five siblings of Yunus died in infancy.

Coming from a well-off family, Yunus was able to attend preparatory school in Chittagong. After that, he studied in Chittagong Collegiate School and Chittagong College. He completed his BA and MA at Dhaka University.

Fulbright

He received his Ph.D in economics from Vanderbilt University in 1969 after getting a Fulbright scholarship. He did some teaching in Colorado University.

Toward the end of his seven-year stay in America, Yunus supported the Bangladeshi freedom movement when West Pakistan forces occupied the capital Dhaka. Returning to Bangladesh and observing the poverty of rural people in the clutches of exploitative moneylenders, Yunus came up with the idea of microcredit.

After staying seven years in Bangladesh, he joined Chittagong University as a professor of economics.

Famine

Yunus first involved himself in fighting poverty during the 1974 famine in Bangladesh. He discovered that very small loans could make a significant difference to a poor person's ability to survive.

The first loan he gave was $27 from his own pocket. He lent it to 42 female basket weavers in the village of Jobra near Chittagong University. He discovered that they could repay the amount very quickly by selling their goods in the market.

Before this, they used to take loans from village loansharks with high interest rates. In some cases, the interest rates stood at a staggering 10 percent a week.

However, banks were not interested in giving tiny loans to poor people and they considered the poor to be bad borrowers.

Against banks' advice

In 1976, Yunus launched the activities of Grameen Bank and started giving out loans to poor Bangladeshis against the advice of banks and the government.

He carried on giving out microloans and in 1983, he officially formed the Grameen Bank, meaning village bank, on the principles of trust and solidarity.

Model

Its method of giving out loans is now used in projects in 58 countries, including the United States, Canada, France, the Netherlands and Norway.

Besides Grameen Bank, Yunus has created a number of companies in Bangladesh to address the diverse issues of poverty and development.

The companies include Grameen Phone, Grameen Cybernet, Grameen Communications, Grameen Software, Grameen Information Technology Park, Grameen Fund, Grameen Capital Management, Grameen Textile, Grameen Knitwear, Grameen Renewable Energy, Grameen Health, Grameen Education, Grameen Agriculture, Grameen Fisheries and Livestock, and Grameen Business Promotion.

Village bank helps 3.8M break out of poverty

By Jasim Uddin Khan
The Daily Star
Asia News Network

DHAKA—AROUND 6.6 MILLION people, 96 percent of whom are women, have so far received Grameen Bank microcredit, contributing to poverty reduction and women empowerment in Bangladesh.

Fifty-eight percent or 3.8 million of the loan recipients have been able to break out of the poverty line as of February 2006, according to the latest data available from Bangladesh Economic Review.

Human right

Grameen Bank seeks to bring financial services to the poor, particularly women, to help them fight poverty, and to make their businesses profitable.

The bank started with the belief that credit should be accepted as a human right, and built a system where one who does not possess anything gets the highest priority in getting a loan.

It works to raise the status of poor women in their families by giving them ownership of assets. It makes sure that the ownership of the houses built with Grameen Bank loans remain with the borrowers, the women.

The bank of the poor started its operations in a remote village of Zobra, 26 kilometers from Chittagong City. The bank's operation now spreads over 71 thousand villages across the country with 2,226 branches, according to the bank's website.

The bank has so far distributed Tk 29,000 crore loan with a 98.45 percent recovery rate.

Yunus, while teaching economics at Chittagong University, conceived the idea of introducing microcredit.

Collateral-free

Grameen Bank has changed the conventional banking practice by removing the need for collateral and created a banking system based on mutual trust, accountability, participation and creativity.

At Grameen Bank, credit is a cost-effective weapon for fighting poverty. Credit also serves as a catalyst for improving the socioeconomic conditions of the poor, who have been kept outside the banking system on the grounds that they are not bankable.

Yunus reasoned that if financial resources can be made available to the poor on terms and conditions that are reasonable, the poor can create the biggest development wonder.

Tiny weekly installment

Repayment of Grameen loans is also made very easy by splitting the loan amount in tiny weekly installments.

Grameen Bank methodology is almost the reverse of the conventional banking methodology. Conventional banking is based on the principle that the more you have, the more you can get.

In other words, if you have little or nothing, you get nothing. As a result, more than half the population of the world is deprived of the financial services of the conventional banks.

Conventional banking is based on collateral, Grameen system is collateral-free.

Grameen methodology is not based on assessing the material possession of a person. It is based on the potential of a person.

Grameen Bank branches are located in rural areas, unlike the branches of conventional banks, which try to locate themselves as close as possible to the business districts and urban centers.

Bank goes to people

The first principle of Grameen banking is that clients should not go to the bank, it is the bank which should go to the people instead. Doing business this way means a lot of work for the bank, but it is more convenient for the borrowers.

Grameen system pays a lot of attention to monitoring the education of the children, housing, sanitation and access to clean drinking water. Grameen system helps the borrowers to build their own pension funds, and other types of savings.

Special attention

In Grameen Bank, even a beggar gets special attention. A program is designed to persuade a beggar to join it.

The Grameen system encourages the borrowers to adopt some goals. These are known as "Sixteen Decisions" that include no dowry, education for children, sanitary latrine, planting trees, eating vegetables to combat night-blindness among children, and providing clean drinking water.

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MILF says bomb raps to be dropped

Japan rehab expert to help bring peace between MILF, gov't

COTABATO CITY—AMID THE IMpasse in peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), a Japanese expert will start working with Malaysian-led peace monitors for the rehabilitation of war-torn areas in Mindanao on Monday.

"This is part of Japan's commitment to help the Arroyo government's peace initiatives with the MILF in Mindanao," Jesus Dureza, presidential peace adviser, said.

Dureza said Masafumi Nagaishi, who is known for his community reconstruction and development works overseas, would be based here.

"His expertise in economic development and rebuilding is an added peace instrument that would bring the much-awaited peace to our land," Dureza said.

Prior to his deployment to Mindanao, Nagaishi was chief of a disaster management unit of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica).

Brig. Gen. Edgardo Gurrea, chief of the government's coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities, said Nagaishi's entry to the monitoring team "is a big help because of his expertise in rehabilitation works."

"We need people like him in the entire peace process, we have a lot to rebuild and rehabilitate, so he is very welcome news," Gurrea told the INQUIRER.

For three years now, the monitoring team, led by Malaysian military officials, have been helping both the government and the MILF implement a ceasefire agreement that greatly improved the peace and order situation in Mindanao.

MOHAQHER Iqbal, chief peace negotiator of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, answers questions from media on the stalled peace process between his group and the government.

JEOFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

With Nagaishi's deployment, Japan became the first country outside of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to actively participate in the government's peace campaign in war-torn Mindanao.

Sweden and other European countries have also previously expressed willingness to participate in peace-building in Mindanao.

Dureza said the Japanese expert will focus mainly on the monitoring of the socioeconomic component of the government's peace process with the MILF.

He was expected to also work closely with the Bangsamoro Development Agency, the MILF's rehabilitation arm. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) yesterday said that the government was already working for the dropping of charges against its chair, Ebrahim Murad, in connection with the recent bombings in Central Mindanao.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said they were told the charges have not been filed in court yet.

"It's only the result of police investigation. The charges were not yet formally filed in the court. The government is doing verification right now and later, the dropping of chairman Murad's name from the list of suspects would be worked out," he said.

Kabalu declined to name the MILF's source but said he works with the government peace panel.

Jesus Dureza, presidential peace adviser, told the INQUIRER that Malacañang would not dip its hands into the issue.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo was letting investigators do their job to determine whether there was evidence to charge Murad in connection with the explosions that hit Tacurong City, Makilala, North Cotabato and this city.

Six people died in the explosions while dozens of others were injured.

Process

"The logical sequence will take place because we have a due process to follow. His case is being handled by Secretary Silvestre Afable," Dureza said.

Afable is chief government negotiator.

Dureza, who said he believed that Murad was innocent of the charges, said contrary to Kabalu's information, the case has already been filed.

"It will depend on the evidence because the case was already filed. But personally, I believe he is not involved," Dureza said.

Supt. Marcelo Pintac, chief of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in North Cotabato, said the police have a witness against Murad.

"A witness told investigators that it was him (Murad) who ordered the conduct of bombings," Pintac said.

The INQUIRER was able to secure an affidavit executed by an Ambas Tokan pointing to Murad's participation in the bomb run.

Tokan, who confessed he was an MILF rebel based in Camp Usman in President Roxas, North Cotabato, said he was present when MILF commander Kule Mamagong planned out the bombing attacks sometime in the first week of September.

Tokan claimed that Mamagong is a bomb expert, who trained under the Jemaah Islamiyah.

He said during the planning, Mamagong organized a team of JI-trained bomb experts including an alias Madz, a resident of Barangay Manarapan in Carmen town; alias Tatoh and alias Sammy, all residents of Barangay Matingaw in Midsayap, Cotabato; and alias Kier and alias Naz, of Barangay Kabuntalan, Midsayap, Cotabato.

Tokan said Afghan-trained Abdulbasit Usman, alias Basit, of the MILF special operations group, the prime suspect in the April 21, 2002 Fitmart bombing in General Santos City, was also present during the planning stage.

He said in the third week of September, the group left MILF's Camp Usman and proceeded to their designated staging area. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

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Cotabato airport X-ray machine for display only

COTABATO CITY—A vital antiterror instrument at the Cotabato airport has not been working for months now.

Leon Masalta, Air Transportation Office manager, said the lone cargo X-ray machine of the Cotabato airport has not been working since the first week of August, months before three bombings rocked Central Mindanao last week.

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

"The spare parts are not available in the local market," he said, adding that the ATO central office and the PNP Aviation Security Group have been informed about it.

Airport police and personnel of the Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific are helping security personnel in ensuring that all the baggage and cargo of departing and arriving airplanes are safe.

"The airport police use bomb-sniffing dogs in checking the baggage and cargo while aviation police conduct body checks to all outgoing passengers," Masalta said.

He did not say how many K-9 dogs are helping security personnel but stressed that the body search on passengers was very strict.

Appealing for passengers' patience, Masalta said outgoing passengers are advised to check-in two hours before their flight schedule.

Col. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said military personnel have been helping the airport police in securing the safety of passengers.

The Cotabato airport is serving Cotabato-Manila-Cotabato flights of PAL and Cebu Pacific. It is also serving the Cotabato-Zamboanga air traffic of inter-island airline company.

Security at the airport entrance has been very strict since two years ago with at least three layers of military checkpoints.

In 2003, a car bomb went off a few meters from the Cotabato airport terminal, killing one person and destroying pieces of airport property and several business establishments.

Masalta also appealed to PNP Aviation Security Office in Camp Crame for the immediate repair of the cargo X-ray machine. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

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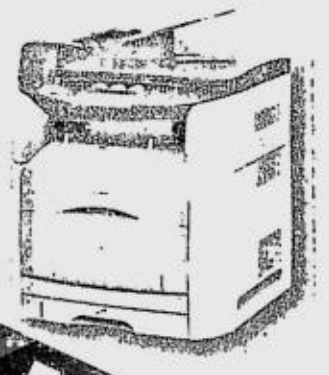

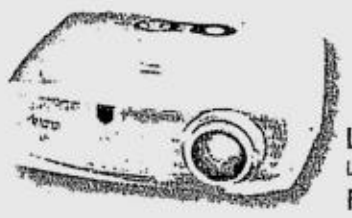

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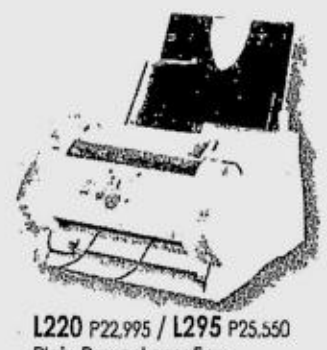

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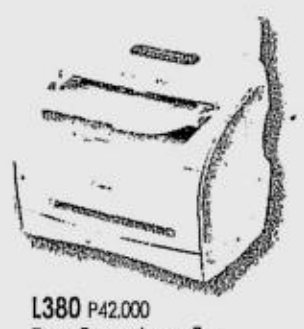

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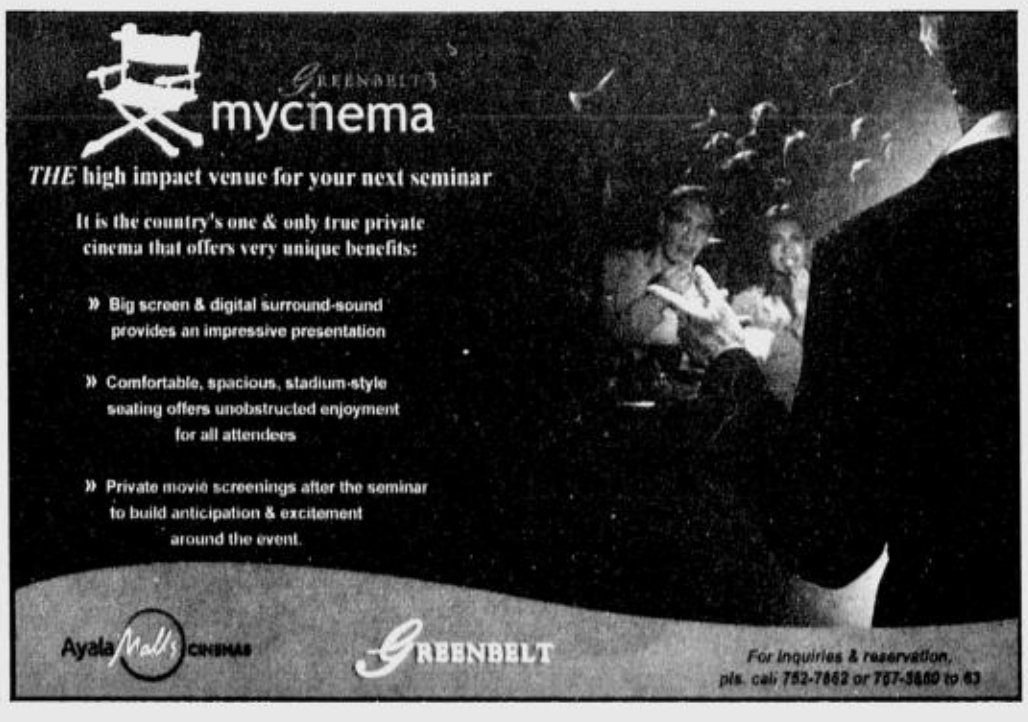

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Not even war can stop Yakan weavers

By Julie S. Alipala
Lamitan, Basilan

AT 60, AMBALAN AUSALIN COULD HARDLY stand and walk. But her eyes are still sharp, and her hands, firm and strong.

Over the past five decades, Ausalin has been stuck to a bamboo seat attached to a thick long rope known as the "Esusen Dedu," a huge weaving structure.

"This is my life. This is our tradition," Ausalin said as she smiled, showing her teeth stained from heavy use of betel nuts (*nganga*).

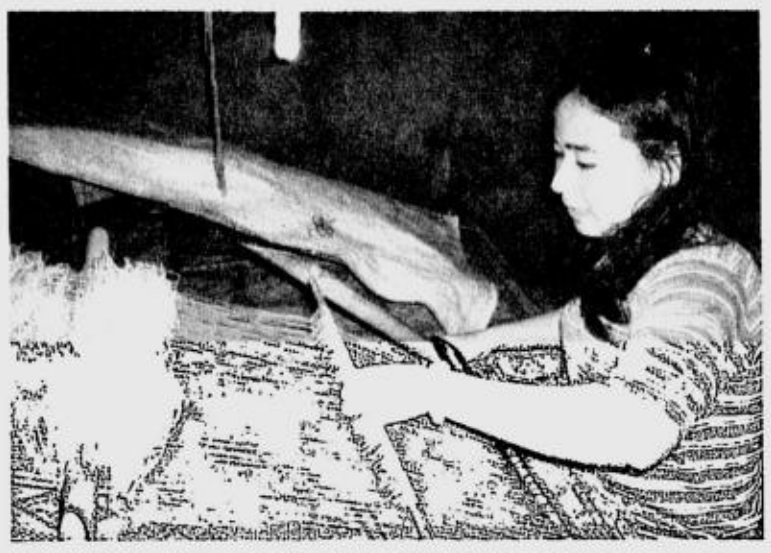
Trained in weaving by her grandmother known only as Baulang, Ausalin strives to preserve Yakan weaving by sharing her craft to her children and grandchildren, including the boys. "I don't want this craft exclusive only to female members of the family," she said.

Her 20-year-old daughter-in-law Maira is following in her footsteps. A distant relative introduced the craft to her when she was 10 years old, she said.

"My son Nurhakim is also learning. They are forced to acquire the skills in weaving because they are always on my side," Maira said. Nurhakim is only 7 years old and in Grade 1 at the Bohe Bessey Elementary School on the outskirts of Lamitan town in Basilan

Bakul Sahal, who is in her late 50s, agrees with Ausalin.

"Yakan is part of our life, we grew up wearing Yakan cloth woven by our parents and grandparents. Although different textiles have been introduced in the market, we keep our own because this is what we are known for and identified with," Sahal said.



ALBIYA Dobel is a graduate of Computer Science but ended up as weaver in Lamitan's town center because of difficulty in finding a job.
JULIE S. ALIPALA

Weaving is not just meant to keep a tradition but also a way to keep the people away from hunger, said Albiya Dobel, a 20-year-old graduate of Computer Science at the Isabela Claret College of Basilan.

After graduation, Albiya said she had difficulty finding employment. "My only skill, which my aunt taught me when I was 8, is to weave. Now, here I am weaving to fill my stomach."

Albiya uses a vacant space in what used to be a warehouse for copra under her aunt's house, to weave a 30-meter cloth with a fish design in every meter.

"Every meter I weave, I earn P350 to P400. I can finish a meter in a month," Albiya said. It took her almost two years to finish the entire length.

Sahal, Maira and Ambalan agreed that weaving was not just tradition. "We weave to feed our children."

Sahal also attends to her cassava farm. "Planting and harvesting cassava are the only times I can rest from weaving."

She weaves a "*pis*," which is commonly used as table cover or blanket. It is one and a half meters wide and 10 meters long.

Each cut costs about P1,000, but buying it over "*pasalubong*" counters at airports or at the Yakan Weaving Village in Zamboanga City costs about P2,000 per cut.

"Since every day we need to eat, I always rush my weaving because I cannot solely depend on my husband's earnings as a farmer," Maira said.

Ambalan said the government's war against the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in 2000 almost destroyed the established weaving villages in Tuburan, Sumisip and Lamitan towns.

"What I did then was to dismantle my weaving structure, had my son (an elementary graduate) sketch it for me and later bought everything to build a new one, including the bamboo used for thread color separation," Ambalan said.

But in some areas in Sumisip, where weaving is a major attraction and livelihood, Ambalan said, young women preferred to leave the place and work as domestic helpers in Arab countries.

"Old folks like me either die of heart disease or fear. Some prefer to chew their betel nuts and concentrate on farming. Weaving is very expensive and time consuming, and requires huge materials," Ambalan said.

The women weave even during evacuations.

"We bring pieces of our design that we inherited from our great grandparents. So wherever we establish a small community in some other areas, we bring out the design and our weaving materials," Sahal said.

Lamitan Mayor Roderick Furigay said efforts were being done to preserve the Yakan culture.

Several weaving centers have been established in the town and not only women but men, including Christians are encouraged to weave, promote and preserve Yakan culture, he said.

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Settler wants to reclaim land taken by gov't

TUBA, BENGUET—TRACING THE history of the first Igorot miners at a protected forest reservation here may yet provide the key to the wish of the heirs of an early settler to reclaim more than seven hectares of ancestral land.

The land, located at Pitlawan near Mt. Sto. Tomas, was registered as a government property for the use of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) under Presidential Proclamation No. 603 issued on Aug. 5, 1940.

In a petition filed at the National Commission of Indigenous People (NCIP) in the Cordillera, the heirs of Langbis Bucong said their ancestors have been in "actual and physical possession" of the property for more than 50 years.

The possession was already there even during the time when the Spaniards first encountered the Igorots in the area in the 16th and 17th centuries, they said.

Bucong's property actually formed part of the early ancestral domains of the ancient "gaganayans," or indigenous peoples, who are now known as the Kankanaey, said lawyer Torres A-ayo, the heirs' counsel.

"The tribal name 'gaganayan' in fact evolved from the mining activities at that time of the indigenous peoples along Bued and Agno Rivers at the foot of Mt. Sto. Tomas," he said.

These 'gaganayan,' A-ayo said, expanded their operations into nearby areas that led to the sprouting of mining communities in Dalicno, Binanga, Tuding, Ampucao, Samuyao, Antamok and Balatoc, all in Itogon town.

The petition, which drew historical facts from the book, "The Discovery of the Igorots" by William Henry Scott, was sent to the NCIP central office recently because the case was deemed "of national significance."

Bucong's heirs said the conversion of the property into an animal breeding farm unlawfully dispossessed them of their land and reduced them to mere squatters.

The land became the object of a tug-of-war between the heirs and the BAI after Proclamation 603 was issued.

Bucong's house was burned by BAI's employees sometime in 1954, prompting Bucong to charge Dr. Julio Fernandez, then farm manager, and two employees with arson.

In 1988, the BAI and the Bureau of Plant Industry signed a memorandum of agreement that allowed the BPI to enter Bucong's property and plant citrus. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

TURNAROUND

Mayors won't let bribe rap stop STL

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—The league of mayors in the province has again changed its position on the planned operation of small town lottery (STL) in Nueva Vizcaya when it decided to endorse the government-sanctioned numbers game.

The reversal came more than a month after the local chapter of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), in an earlier resolution, withdrew its endorsement of support for STL amid accusations of bribery and corruption.

Bambang Mayor Pepito Balgos, league chapter president, said the mayors unanimously approved the application of a firm that wanted to conduct STL bet collection in Nueva Vizcaya.

"We have thoroughly discussed all the surrounding circumstances [of passing a contrary resolution] and we have come to the decision that we will again endorse [STL] because of the good that it will bring to the greater number of our people," Balgos said.

The signed copy of the resolution, however, has yet to be officially released, as it is still being passed around among mayors for their signatures, said Kayapa Mayor Tony Dupiano, secretary general of the LMP chapter.

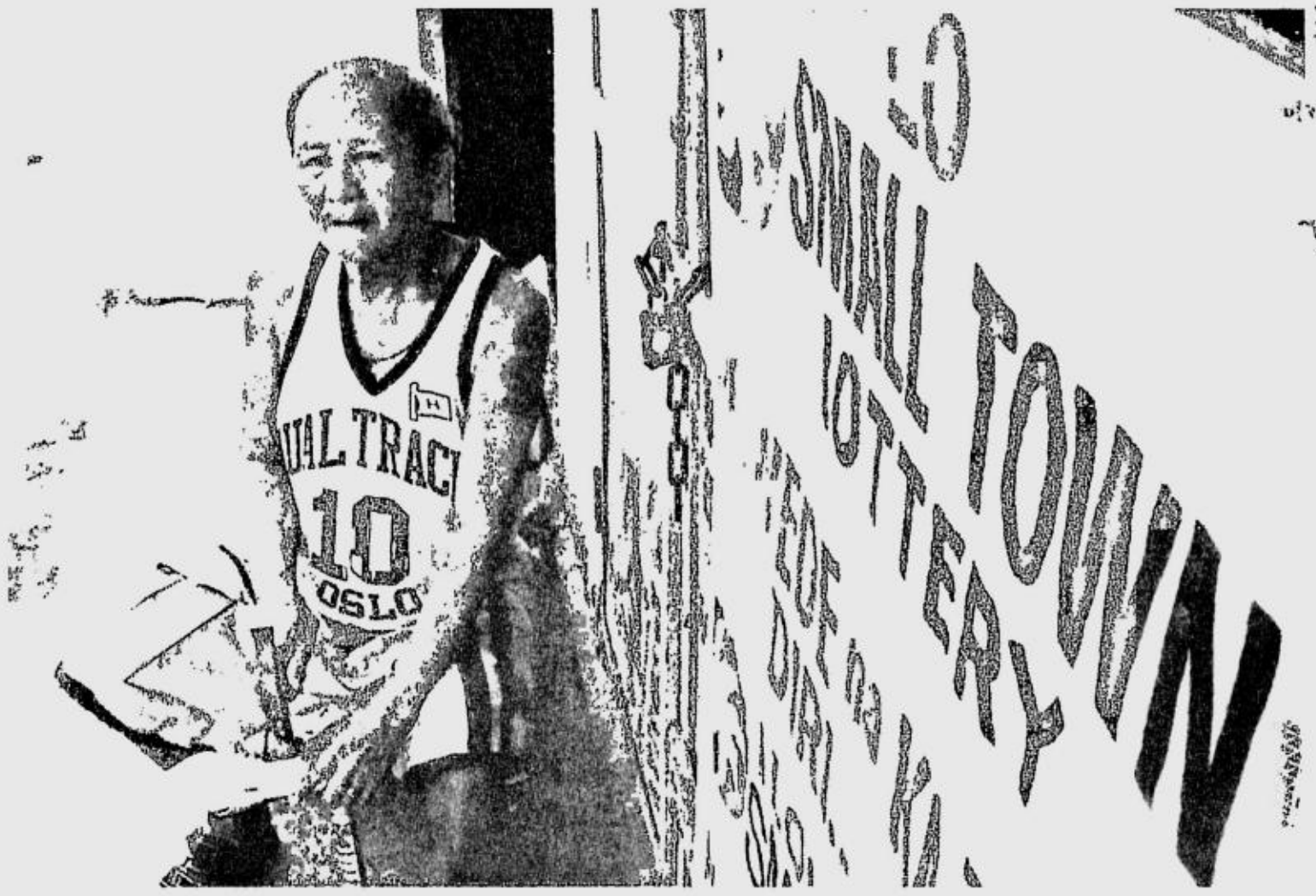
Last month, the mayors, in a unanimous declaration, withdrew their support for the STL to belie charges that a number of them had received P20,000 from franchise applicants, purportedly in exchange for a pro-STL resolution that they passed in May.

The mayors' approval was required from franchise applicants by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) before they could be allowed to operate.

"A number of mayors are also disgruntled over the continued [clandestine] operations of jueteng in the past weeks following the passage of the September resolution, when we have already agreed never to allow both STL and illegal gambling in our areas," Balgos said.

The mayors are concerned over the frequent relief of police officials in the province, which has always been blamed on their failure to stop jueteng, he said.

He said the funds that would come from STL would also help the local police augment their meager government funding for their operations.



A CARPENTER hangs out in front of an STL office in Iloilo City. The government was promoting its own version of lottery after it drew flak for failing to stop the underworld lottery "jueteng" and after high government officials, including the President's husband and son, were accused of receiving millions of pesos in protection money from jueteng. ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

7 cops, 8 others wanted for 2003 village chief's slay

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A JUDGE ORdered the chief of police of this city to serve the warrants of arrests on seven policemen and eight others who were charged with kidnapping and killing a former village chief in 2003.

Judge Mario Trinidad, of the Guihulngan Regional Trial Court, gave the order to Senior Supt. Pedro Merced.

Trinidad said the accused were not eligible for bail.

The policemen charged with the murder of Eleuterio Salabas were Insp. Clarence Dongail, SPO2 Freddie Natividad, Chief Insp. Jimmy Fortaleza, PO1 Bernardo Cimatu, PO2 Allen Winston Hulleza and Senior Insp. Jonathan Lorilla.

Also charged were businessman Manolo Escalante, Ronnie Herrera, July Flores alias Kirhat dela Rosa, Carlo delos Santos alias Caloy, Lorraine Abay alias Lulu, Mamerto, Elma and Elson, all surnamed Cañete, Jude Montilla and Ramonito Estanislao.

Merced assured former Bacolod Rep. John Orola and Tom Orola, brothers-in-law of Salabas, that he will serve the arrest warrants on the accused. "We are exerting all efforts to find them," he said.

Tom Orola welcomed Merced's assurance and expressed hope the police will serve the order soon.

Fortaleza, Lorilla, Cimatu and Natividad, who belong to the Bacolod police office, went on vacation to follow up the charges filed against them, Merced said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez earlier directed Oriental Negros Provincial Prosecutor Diosdado Hermosa to file the amended information for kidnapping with murder against the 15.

The 15 were accused of conspiring to kidnap Salabas at a casino in Bacolod City, taking him to Guihulngan and later to Ajuy town, where he was killed on Sept. 19, 2003.

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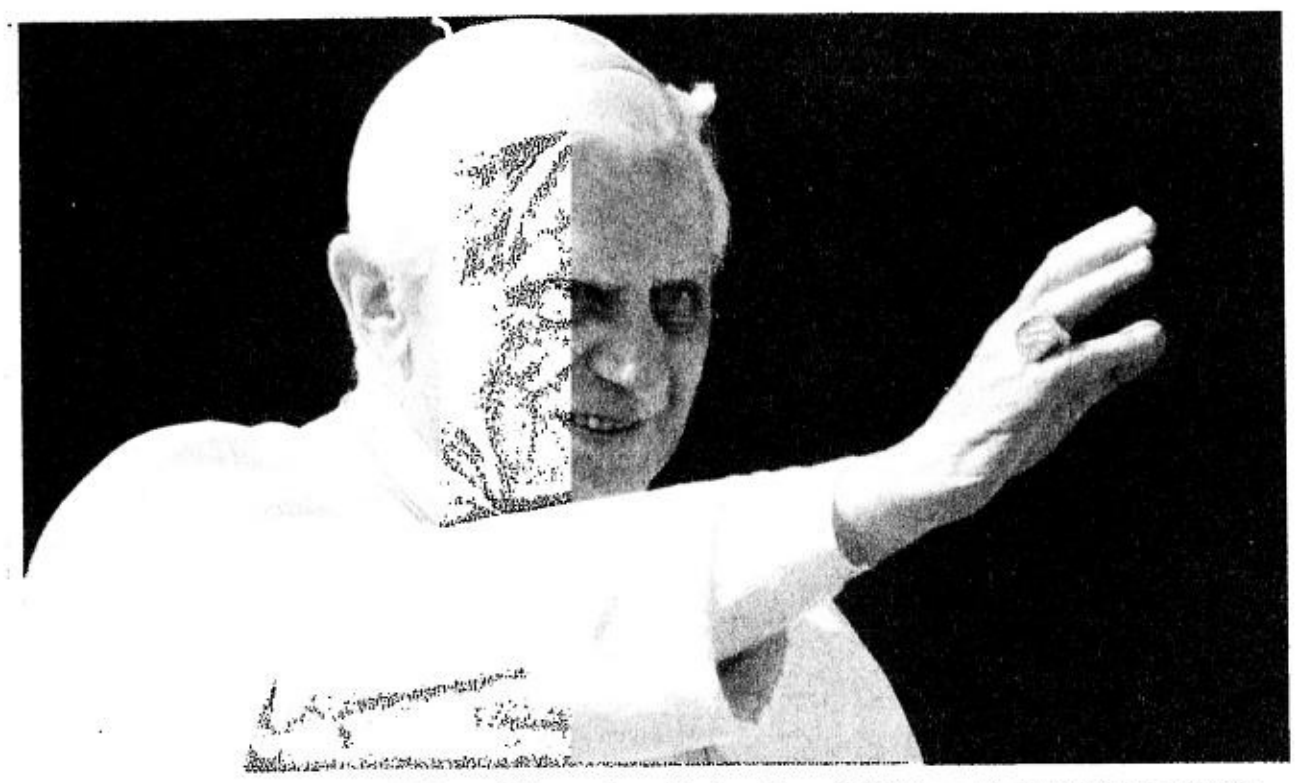


THE FISHERMAN'S RING is an official part of the papal regalia. Pope Benedict XVI is now in Verona to open Italy's 4th National Ecclesial Congress, which is held every 10 years. AFP

'Fisherman's Ring' too big for Benedict

From page A1

Verona's Bentegodi stadium on Thursday.

The faithful, into whose palms the gold ring fell, promptly gave it back each time.

The ring is known as the "Fisherman's Ring," because it depicts St. Peter, the first Pope, casting a net into the sea.

Also called Pescatorio, the "Fisherman's Ring" is an official part of the Pope's regalia. Cast in gold, the ring features an engraved image of St. Peter fishing from a boat, a symbolism of the apostles as "fishers of men." The ring also bears the Pope's name in Latin.

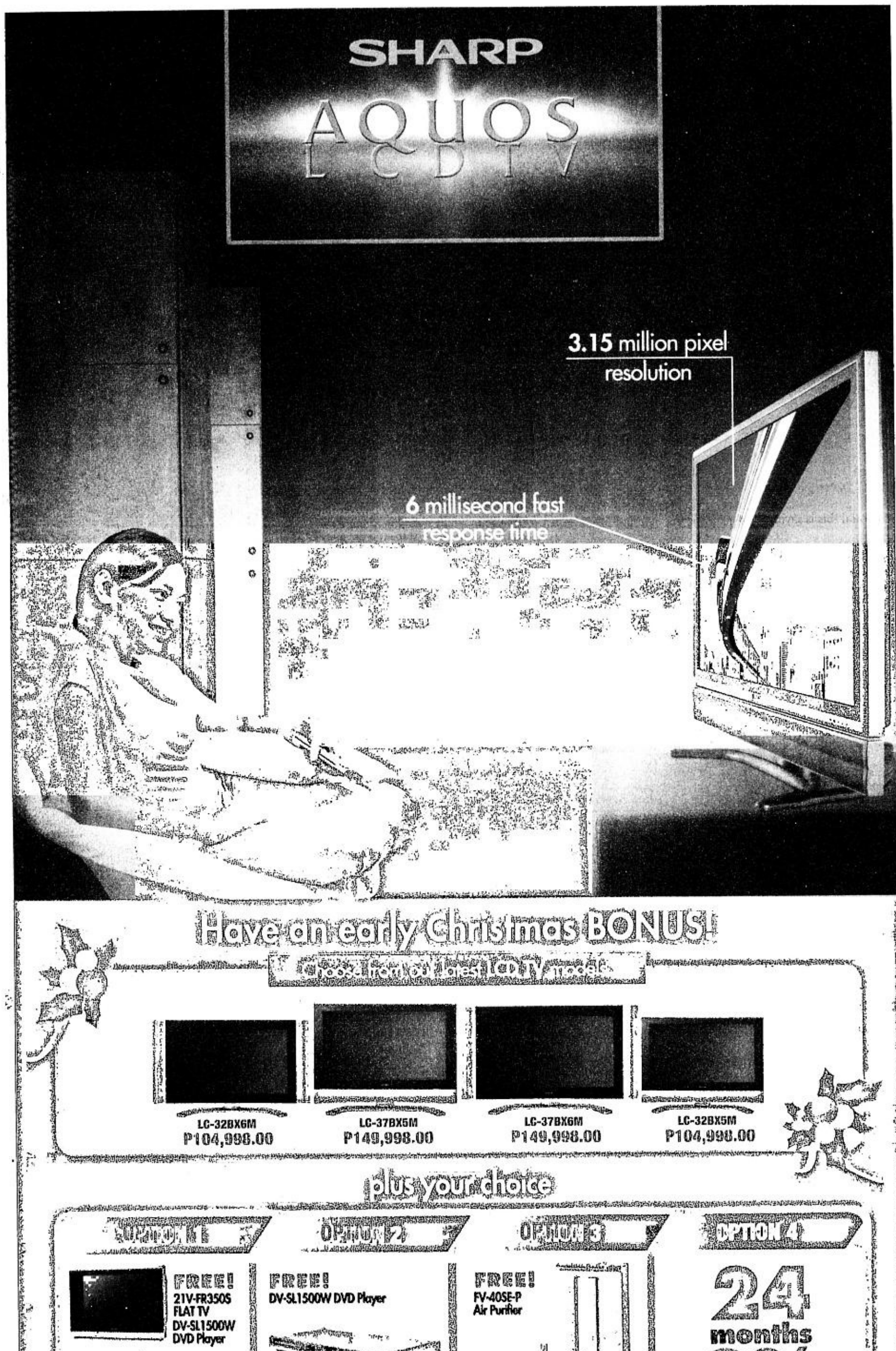
Seal of official documents

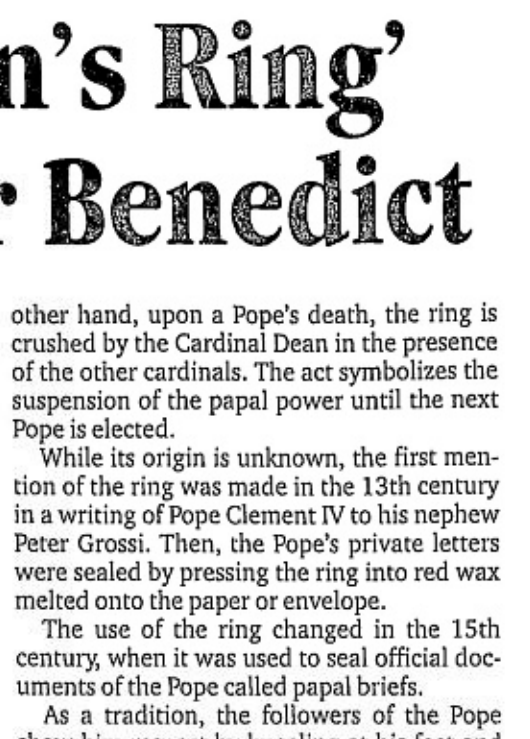
The Pope receives the ring during his installation, when the Cardinal Dean ceremonially slips it on the new Pope's ring finger. On the other hand, upon a Pope's death, the ring is crushed by the Cardinal Dean in the presence of the other cardinals. The act symbolizes the suspension of the papal power until the next Pope is elected.

While its origin is unknown, the first mention of the ring was made in the 13th century in a writing of Pope Clement IV to his nephew Peter Grossi. Then, the Pope's private letters were sealed by pressing the ring into red wax melted onto the paper or envelope.

The use of the ring changed in the 15th century, when it was used to seal official documents of the Pope called papal briefs.

As a tradition, the followers of the Pope show him respect by kneeling at his feet and kissing the ring. *Reuters with a report from Mel Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research*





OFFICIAL US MARINE CORPS PHOTO

HOW TO HANDLE A COBRA: This is the lesson for the day taught by M/Sgt. Jaime Agonoy to US Marines and sailors from the Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 at Fort Ramon Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

GIs get best ...

From page A1

It may or may not pass as a fair exchange, but such swaps of expertise have marked the training exercises in Central Luzon between the cutting-edge US servicemen and their jungle-smart counterparts in the Philippine military.

Since Oct. 16, members of the Okinawa-based 3rd US Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), III Marine Expeditionary Force, have been engaged in bilateral exercises dubbed Talon Vision and Amphibious Landing Exercise (Phiblex) 2007.

The two-week course, which on the side delivered US-sponsored humanitarian projects for civilians in the host communities, ends on Oct. 31.

For this year's exercises, the Filipino instructors come from the Army's Special Forces.

Training highlight

On the phone yesterday with the INQUIRER, Capt. Burrell Parmer, a US military spokesperson, reported that a "highlight" of his colleagues' sessions with Filipino instructors included demonstrations on "how to catch, kill and eat the poisonous Philippine cobra."

Describing the training exercise held on Thursday in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, Parmer said US Marines and sailors also learned how to build, set and identify traps in the jungle—both for catching food and finding the enemy—and how to identify edible plants and animals.

Parmer noted that along with Thailand, the Philippines had been providing US soldiers the "best training areas" for jungle survival.

He recalled witnessing one cobra-handling session wherein US soldiers were taught how to safely approach and grab the live snake within a distance of two to three feet.

And in case they find themselves dying of thirst in the jungle, he said, they were also taught "how to drink cobra blood."

A half-jesting Parmer recalled leaving that session with the knowledge that the snake would later become barbecue for the class: A Philippine Army sergeant was already chopping it up.

(The Philippine spitting cobra is a prize catch for poachers in Central Luzon who are mostly fishermen and farmers who have turned to snake-hunting in search of a higher-earning trade. It has actually been classified as an endangered species by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.)

Jumping from a plane

In another training program also held last week, it was the Philippine troopers' turn to learn and have "a unique chance to be able to jump from an American military aircraft," according to a US military statement.

Some 150 participants from both the Philippine and US forces conducted parachute and air delivery operations from a KC-130 Hercules cargo aircraft, also in Fort Magsaysay.

The exercises simulated airdrop resupplying missions, a type of "valuable training [that Filipino soldiers] don't get to do on a regular basis," the statement noted.

Billboards, bagoong, bookstores, Brad Pitt

From page A1

cell phone is mainly for talking, not texting. I hadn't witnessed this texting phenomenon en masse before. Armies of Filipinos text their hearts, lives and pesos away with an intensity I thought they reserved only for sex or politics. This was an epiphany for me: Filipinos in the 21st century text. Constantly. Sometimes hysterically—my sister's domestic helper waged an entire battle with her husband's mistress via text. Often, Filipinos text for no reason at all. They just—love to text. In North America, text messages are generally confined to an urgent 4-word message like "Car dead, me alive" that must be sent to a worried loved one, a jittery insurance agent assessing his payout, or a car rental franchisee in deep mourning over his wrecked vehicle. In the Philippines, Filipinos text to chat: Did you like the color of my shirt, did you watch "Gulong ng Palad", did you hear about your second cousin's neighbor's ex-boyfriend's affair with his aunt's former employer…

And now for the billboards

Manila was text-mad: This was the first thing I noticed after my absence of nine years. Next: The billboards. I suspect that former residents of Hong Kong, Tokyo and Las Vegas want to recreate the worst aspects of their cities in Manila. Where does the money for these monstrosities come from? How many people are killed when these weapons of mass distraction come crashing down during typhoons? **[This article was written before "Milenyo."—Ed]** Obviously, not many Filipinas look as mestiza as those models on the ubiquitous billboards, including the one advertising skin whitener. And few Filipinos can afford to buy the condos and the vacations in Boracay that entice them from so much interrupted sky. But the Philippines is a land where the few enjoy the most while the many—well, the many must make do with looking at the billboards.

Behold the overpasses

Now, behold the overpasses, underpasses, fly-overs, whatever they're called. These weren't around in 1997. I learned to drive in 1967, transporting myself from Quezon City to Quiapo, all around Makati and Intramuros with little difficulty. This visit, I was lost. I couldn't get to Edsa from Ortigas without winding up somewhere I never intended to go, never mind find my Zen Center in Marikina only to end up in Cainta. My view blocked by billboards, my car hijacked (only so-to-speak, thank goodness!) by the tangle of expressways that weren't there when I lived in Manila—I grappled with culture shock.

Joy in a bottled bagoong

Thankfully, pure joy was just around the corner: Bottled bagoong! A welcome innovation up there with bear spray (a safety suggestion where I now live) and hockey sticks (a necessity where I now live). In the 50s when I was a child, bagoong was measured out from vile vats in the appropriately named "wet market" where you tried, always unsuccessfully, to avoid stepping into the puddles of toxic liquids on the filthy cement floor. Most of us who ate the stuff survived to adulthood, as evidenced by today's massive overpopulation in the Philippines. Now, bagoong enticed balikbayans from sanitary sealed jars sold in grocery stores and even in boutique-style specialty shoppes, the "shoppe" on the store sign carved amidst filigreed vines. Every self-respecting balikbayan must bring home bagoong; my trick is to cushion the bottles in bubble-wrap and put them in old biscuit cans so they don't break on the flight home and cause me to be deported as an undesirable alien or investigated as a terrorist with a dirty, very smelly, bomb.

Courageous beacons

No doubt the best new thing about Manila—and this is saying a lot after bottled bagoong—are the wonderful small bookstores that jostle for space beside that juggernaut, National Book Store (Ben Ramos of National is a dear friend but I adore the underdog in this drama.) With catchy names like "Fully Booked," "Ink and Stone," and "A Different Bookstore" (like their old counterparts, Frankie Jose's "Solidaridad" and Tony and Marica Abaya's "Erehwon") these delightful oases of knowledge and wisdom are courageous beacons in a city overwhelmed by poverty on an unconscionable scale and asphyxiated by that monumental disaster called No National Family Planning Program.

I was inspired to learn that my high school classmate Cristina Cu-unjieng-Lopez opened A Different Bookstore in Glorietta 3 in Makati a dozen years ago. Cristy looks as delicate as Lalique crystal so I was amazed that she's survived in the merciless business of selling books in a country that hardly reads. "Running a small bookstore is like swimming upstream," Cristy said, her lovely face a study in bittersweet determination. "We turned our garage into our office/warehouse, and we count part of our profits in the great books we get to read, like Carlos Fuentes' Eagle's Throne or, when I can't stand George Bush which is all the time, Francis Fukuyama's America at the Crossroads, Ron Suskind's One Percent Doctrine, and Anthony Shadid's Night Draws Near." With invaluable help from her daughter Catherine ("the brains who directs my passion," Cristy says of Catherine), as well as Cristy's husband—nicknamed Baby—and their business partners, Cristy opened 4 more branches of A Different Bookstore at Eastwood, Virra Mall, Mall of Asia and most recently, at Serendra, plus Ink and Stone in the Podium.

"Nobody goes into this business unless they love books passionately and are half insane," Cristy added. Hallelujah! There seems to be enough half-insane book-loving customers to make the rent. May their tribe increase!

'Obscenely gorgeous'

What Cristy and other small bookstore owners need is a life-size poster at the entrance of their shops, featuring the obscenely gorgeous Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. I suggest this only half-jokingly, being shamelessly addicted to Brangelina myself. Even if the Ku Klux Klan hates this couple for diluting "white perfection" by loving babies with brown and black skin, many others throughout the world adore this New Age pair with their earth-embracing humanitarian love affair with Asia, Africa and each other. Putting their money where their mouth is, these two strange creatures—photographed cradling their Cambodian, Ethiopian and American babies—remind their American public that it is not only American victims who matter. If Cristy could snap a photo of Brangie in her store as they read the translations of the Noli and the Fili by Soledad Lacson-Locsin… Back to reality, I quickly bought Rizal's book—all Filipinos, especially the balikbayan, should read Rizal. It might distract them from texting, and whitening their skin as the billboards urge, and remind them that the country is up against terrible odds.

Billboards, bottled bagoong and bookstores engulf or elevate the city I once called home. I wish I could conjure up the poetic nostalgia that Lawrence Durrell felt for the city of Alexandria, or Virginia Woolf for her London, or what Fellini felt for Roma and Woody Allen for Manhattan. But I see all too non-poetically that beneath the garish billboards and jammed expressways that try too hard to paint a veneer of modern virility on Manila, the same old tribal greed chokes the city, the country. Not long ago, I was naïve enough to think that with Marcos gone, better Filipinos would do better things for this country. The best Filipinos still do the best they can for the Philippines, whether they live within its boundaries or sustain it from abroad with their hard-earned treasure and talents. But how the country is dragged down by selfish tribalism! Several Filipino clans that have wielded power provincially and nationally could be role models for the Mafia. If only some of them would send a criminal relative, town mate or political benefactor to jail now and then, perhaps the rest of the country could start learning how to put loyalty to law and nation above tribal fealty.

Literal interpretation

There's also the little problem of maybe 50 million Filipinos still clinging to an all too literal interpretation of their religion, so they go forth and multiply again and again and again. I've always said that if the popes and bishops had to work their behinds off to feed, clothe, shelter and educate the children, birth control would be a sacrament. Between the incompetence of the godfathers in government and the sanctimonious ignorance of the religious bosses, the Philippines is assured of decades of stagnation. Think that's an exaggeration? When I was a child eating unsanitary bagoong in the 50s, the Philippines' economy was similar to Japan's. In the 60s when I kept hearing about the sexual revolution but never managed to find it, the Philippines played in the same ballpark as Thailand. Today, even war-ravaged Vietnam chugs ahead.

Living in denial

Many Filipino political and religious "leaders" live in denial before the awful fact that along with North Korea, the Philippines is just about the worst managed nation in Asia with a criminally irresponsible population growth that dooms babies to be born into, literally, a life in the gutter. Damn how Filipinos threw away that one brief shining moment 20 years ago when there was a genuine chance to finally get on track! With a few precious exceptions, the deluded "leaders" in government and the dominant church wreak havoc upon the nation, always with the most saccharine posturing. Maybe they should stay away from the country—for ninety years, preferably in a maximum-security facility somewhere in Siberia; where are the gulags when you need them.

But even then don't bet that they'll learn to see this suffocated city, this suffering country, with new eyes. I've heard rumors that in places like Scandinavia, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Canada, effective government and compassionate societies have been materialized by relatively honest political leaders, less greedy business managers and spiritual, non-religious human beings. Without a doubt, such beings live in the Philippines, too. I have the privilege to know some of them: writers, publishers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, business managers, farmers, teachers, rebels and soldiers—all men and women who have enriched my life for more than half a century and whom I deeply admire and respect and even love. But Filipino reality being what it is, will they ever get to lead? Filipino culture being what it is, these poor heroic Filipinos who try to live honestly, creatively and justly, need the enlightenment of a buddha and the compassion of the Christ consciousness just to make it through the day.

'Graceful tragedy'

On Edsa 20 years ago, masses of Filipinos gathered to grasp at freedom; now the billboards reach for the sky. Yes, some things have improved—better roads, better communications, a few more houses for the homeless, a little more money among the once-poor, thanks mainly to jobs abroad. But the past and present story of the Philippines is in great part a painful tragedy saved from total grimness only by the grace of its people. Filipinos deserve more than graceful tragedy. Yet even as it chokes, Manila dances in a hallucinatory daze under the surreal lights of its billboards, soothes its exiles with bottled shrimp paste, bandages its jagged wounds with brave little bookstores, and texts out millions of smiley faces. ☺

Joc-joc's bid for bail, habeas corpus rejected by US court

From page A1

distributed to administration allies P728 million in fertilizer funds to ensure the victory of President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004.

In his habeas corpus petition, Bolante argued that the US government violated immigration rules by revoking his visa because of a political dispute in the Philippines and therefore was detaining him without due process.

"Congress has taken it out of my hands … I cannot address this argument because I lack subject matter jurisdiction over the case," Adelman said in her ruling dated Oct. 18.

She said the legality of Bolante's detention depended on the resolution of such issues as whether the US government lawfully revoked his visa and whether he was removable from the United States.

But she said she was precluded from reviewing these issues as the case was "not within the narrow category of cases over which district courts have jurisdiction."

To appear in court Nov. 9

Last July, the US government initiated removal proceedings against Bolante who has been subpoenaed to appear before Chicago immigration judge George P. Katsivalis on Nov. 9.

Roque said he was able to get a confirmation from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) trial attorney in Chicago that Bolante had filed a petition for asylum and another petition for bail, although he had thrice been denied bail.

He said the Nov. 9 hearing would be a "determination hearing" during which Bolante can introduce his evidence.

"The judge could also rule that same day or wait for a month before issuing his decision," Roque said.

If he tells all…

Roque said he would go to the Kenosha county jail in Wisconsin, where Bolante is being detained, on Nov. 8 to try to get a deposition from the former agriculture official on the fertilizer scam.

If Bolante agrees to spill the beans on the fertilizer scam on Nov. 8, Roque said he would testify in favor of his asylum application before the immigration judge.

"I challenge him now to tell the truth about the P728-million fertilizer scam. By doing so, he could rightfully claim that he is going to be a victim of political persecution," Roque said.

Roque and several other University of the Philippines law professors have filed an amicus brief before the immigration court opposing Bolante's asylum application.

Bolante told the Wisconsin court that he snubbed the Senate inquiry because it was "politically motivated" and that "any allegations against him are unfounded."

BOLANTE: Visa revoked by US Embassy.

He said that when he traveled to the United States, he believed he had a valid visitor's visa and that its cancellation by the US Embassy was "unlawful."

Bolante submitted a copy of his visa to the court and the judge noted that it bore "no indication of cancellation."

Nonimmigrant visa revoked

But Adelman noted that the US government had submitted copies of letters allegedly sent by a consular officer in Manila to Bolante on Feb. 15, 2006 and March 20, 2006 advising him that his visa was no longer valid.

The March 20 letter informed Bolante that "as of today your nonimmigrant visa has been revoked under the (Immigration and Nationality Act)." A nonimmigrant visa is one issued to an alien who intends to remain in the United States for a definite period of time.

Bolante has denied receiving either letter. He told the court that the US consul in Manila "had no reason to believe that he would overstay his visa and no lawful basis for revoking it."

He also said that his wife had remained in the Philippines and that he owned property in the country. Bolante also disputed that the Senate had issued a warrant for his arrest.

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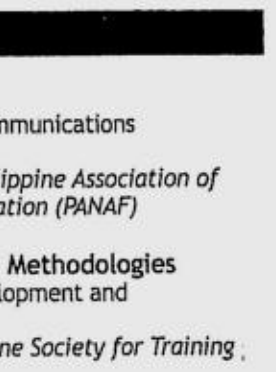

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Django, Nickoy win in Moscow

FILIPINO POOL ACES FRANcisco "Django" Bustamante and Antonio "Nickoy" Lining hurdled their first two matches in the Russian International Open being held at the Billiard Club in Moscow, Russia.

The 43-year-old Bustamante, fresh from retaining his RP 9-Ball crown last week, trounced Alex Borg, 10-6, of Malta late Thursday then subdued Yaroslav Igorevich ,10-6, of Russia late Friday to join Lining in the winners brackets. Lining, 43, beat local bets Plishkin Yegor Dmitriyevich, 10-3, and Kaminsky Gennadi Eduardovich, 10-2.

According to Ish Caparas, events manager of Puyat Sports, other pool wizards in the winner's bracket are reigning Russian champion Konstantin Stepanov of Russia and Amsterdam winner Tony Dragon of Malta.

Marlon Bernardino

Giants thwart Realtors

By Musong R. Castillo

SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION—FINALLY, A defending champion's form.

Purefoods brought down the last undefeated team in the PBA Philippine Cup last night, flaunting the game that made the Chunkee Giants a pre-tournament favorite to hack out a 100-96 decision of Sta. Lucia in an out-of-town sortie in this bustling city.

The Chunkee Giants blew a 20-point lead but closed out with a 7-0 run in the final 27 seconds to secure only their second win in five outings.

Sta. Lucia, which got 21 points from rookie Kelly Williams, fell to 3-1 and into a share of second place with Barangay Ginebra and Red Bull.

Talk 'N Text, at 4-1, became the tournament's new leader.

Purefoods raced to a 60-40 lead at the start of the third period after a Kerby Raymundo three-point play.

But the Realtors, the tailenders in this tournament the last time up, quickly retaliated with a 22-2 run to pull even at 62 and pave the way for the wild and wolly finish witnessed by a big crowd at the Pacoy Ortega gym here.

Sta. Lucia led, 96-93, after two William free throws heading into the final 35 seconds. But it would prove to be the Realtors' last stand as they fumbled their final three offensive plays.

More sports stories on A25 to A28

Late Sports

Kings test Beermen; Welcoat vs Air21 today

GAMES TODAY: *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
4:05 p.m.—Welcoat vs Air21
6:30 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs San Miguel

SO MUCH FOR ROMMEL ADDUCUL AND Lordy Tugade being great confidence boosters for San Miguel.

The Beermen will need to have all hands on deck this time when they clash with the powerhouse Barangay Ginebra Kings in the Philippine Cup eliminations today at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay.

"I would have wanted a few more games before playing Ginebra," said coach Chot Reyes Friday night, moments after Danny Seigle keyed an 81-71 victory over Alaska in Antipolo which was San Miguel's first win in four outings.

The script that time was for Adducul and Tugade to debut with aplomb to get the Beermen out of limbo. Instead, Reyes gave Adducul little playing time and benched Tugade because of a still hurting knee.

But against the top-heavy Gin Kings in the 6:30 p.m. contest, Reyes will have no choice but to utilize Adducul and help Dorian Peña against Eric Menk, Rudy Hatfield, Rafi Reavis and Billy Mamaril.

And Tugade could counter the firepower packed by the Ginebra backcourt led by Jay-Jay Helterbrand and Mark Caguioa.

Though he now has the tools to contend, the short time to prepare notwithstanding, Reyes believes that the key to winning in this league is defense.

"We don't have the best talent, the best size," Reyes said. But if we play defense the way we did tonight (against Alaska), I think we'll do fine."

Welcoat, the surprising newcomer, seeks a third straight win opposite Air21 in the 4:05 p.m. game.

The Dragons' early victims include Coca-Cola and the Beermen in a run that surprised not only the experts but their coach, Leo Austria, as well.

But Air21 is considered as the logical pick in their clash with the Express coming off an impressive 127-110 demolition of fancied Talk 'N Text.

The Express ran the Phone Pals to the ground after dropping three straight heartbreakers to some of the more formidable teams in the field.

Musong R. Castillo

Asiad bets cleared by chief medic

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE DOCTOR HAS GIVEN TEAM PHILIPPINES a clean bill of health.

"I don't expect anybody not passing the medical tests," Dr. Jose Raul Canlas, who heads the medical team of the Asian Games-bound RP contingent, said yesterday.

Canlas added that his eight-man team has already cleared 80 percent of the 267 national athletes seeing action in the Dec. 1-15 Asiad in Doha.

He said the incident involving taekwondo-jin Esther Marie Singson in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games was just an "aberration."

Singson was stripped of her gold medal after testing positive for a banned substance. She, however, claimed that she wasn't aware that the diuretic she was taking was not allowed.

Singson is not in the Asiad lineup and is hoping for a reprieve from the World Taekwondo Federation.

Canlas said conducting pre-tournament checkups for the Asian Games is relatively easy because there are only a few athletes to be tested due to the high standard of competition. The medical team also includes two other doctors, a psychologist and several nurses and masseurs.

plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
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An animal rights activist speaks for the voiceless

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE APPALLING SIGHT OF DOLphins being butchered off the coasts of Japan has led to a decade-long crusade for animal rights.

Trixie Concepcion, coordinator of the nongovernmental organization Earth Island Institute (EII) in UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, was a grade school student when she saw the disturbing image on television.

"I was horrified. Dolphins, whom young children consider as friends, were apparently thought of as pests in some major islands of Japan and butchered," Concepcion said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Despite her youth, Concepcion thought the injustice committed against the friendly marine mammals had to be stopped. "I said to myself, one of these days I'm going to do something to end it," she said of the experience that nearly drove her to tears.

Years later, she would be able to fulfill that vow. As a student majoring in geology at the University of the Philippines, she joined environmental organizations like Haribon, Marine Biological Society and UP Mountaineers.

Shortly after graduation from college, she began working at the institute, a United States-based NGO that monitors the tuna industry for dolphin safety.

Unusual choice of work

"It is unheard of for local geologists to work for environmental companies. Geology graduates usually ended up in mining companies or industries that extracted resources," said Concepcion, who worked briefly at the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center, which dealt with the legal aspect of environmental issues, before becoming a researcher for EII.

After more than a decade with the NGO, Concepcion said she became "an animal rights activist." She said intensive research on animal cruelty influenced her decision.

Concepcion explained that there were three schools of thought in the campaign against animal maltreatment.

Different views

Animal welfare advocates, she said, were against the cruel treatment of animals. "If people should kill animals for food or any important need, they should do so humanely," Concepcion said. Their group can eat meat and consume animal by-products.

Animal rights activists, on the other hand, do not eat meat or use animal products. She explained that EII, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta), and the Palawan Animal Welfare Association Inc. belong to this category.

The most radical, according to Concepcion, are the animal liberationists. "Liberationists do what others (consider) as criminal activities: breaking into laboratories and setting free animals used for experiments, for example," she said.

'Blurred concepts'

Concepcion added that while the three schools of thought were well-defined in the United States, they were still "blurred concepts" in the Philippines.

"Animal rights advocacy in the country is not as strong as in the United States and Europe. We are still a long way off," she said.

Concepcion said it was when she began working for the institute that she gradually became an advocate for animals, especially marine mammals like dolphins.

One of her proudest achievements was preventing a traveling dolphin show from performing in Pasay City a few years back.

"We told people that dolphins got seriously stressed out when confined in small containers while being transported from one place to the next," the animal rights activist said.

She felt vindicated when many customers began returning their tickets after hearing about the dolphins' plight.

Concepcion is also strongly opposed to marine parks which feature performing sea creatures.

"Dolphins—characterized by their beak-like snouts, teeth and dorsal fins—are often used as show animals because of their intelligence," she explained.

She said dolphins, which had never been domesticated in their evolutionary history, are used to swimming for miles in the ocean and felt confined in tanks.

Depressed

"Dolphins get depressed when they cannot use their echolocation abilities, which enable them to determine the shape, density, distance and location of objects by the way they bounce off sonar waves," Concepcion said. As a result, she said they bang their heads on hard surfaces and, in extreme cases, commit suicide by holding their breath.

Concepcion said their fight against animal rights violators, like marine parks, "becomes frustrating whenever the government and other responsible agencies ignore (our) advocacies."

"This is apart from the ridicule I get even from my friends and family who tease me about my serious dedication to animals," she added.

She said that she often has to explain her lifestyle to those interested enough to listen to her.

"People ask why I am a vegetarian, for example, and I have to explain the reason why without being preachy," Concepcion said. She added that, despite the obvious disadvantages, people's growing respect for their cause was more than enough reward.

"Who knows, maybe 50 years from now, a strict consideration of animal rights would not be what many consider a silly idea anymore," Concepcion said with a smile.

TRIXIE Concepcion with her dog Moo, a stray that she adopted. PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

SOME stray cats at UP Village also drop in at the Earth Island Institute office in Quezon City every now and then, probably aware that this is one place where they would always be welcome.

NBI reshuffle effected

A REVAMP WAS EFFECTED YESterday in the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to strengthen its offices in the countryside.

"We need dynamic and pro-active regional directors in crime investigation without the Manila office ordering them what to do," said lawyer Reynaldo Esmeralda, NBI deputy director for regional operations service.

Among those appointed to new posts were Abdulgani Benito, executive officer for the Caraga region; Manuel George Jularbal, director for Central Mindanao; Generoso Matulac, acting director for Southern Tagalog; Policronio Palpal-latoc, acting director for Ilocos region; Lauro Reyes, acting director for Caraga region; Rustico Vigilia, director for Central Luzon and Manuel Almendares, who was transferred to the office of the Deputy Director for Intelligence Service.

Lawyer Ricardo Diaz, former bureau director for Bicol region, was appointed as chief of the Criminal Intelligence Division and NBI spokesperson. *Tina G. Santos*

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GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor **Gerry Lirio**

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a

Edsa heroine goes Down Under rises again

LINDA ANGELES-HILL: I am very happy with my life now here in Australia.

By Emman Cena

EVEN IN FARAWAY LAND DOWN Under, every detail of the 1986 snap elections walkout is still vivid to Linda Angeles-Hill. Twenty years have passed and yet the glazed looks, silent cries and frightened faces of her colleagues walking out the plenary hall of the Philippine International Convention Center linger in Linda's memory.

On Feb. 9, 1986, around 30 computer technicians—including Linda—all manning the tabulation project of the Commission on Elections walked out due to alleged tampering of results of the presidential elections. The walkout, in part, triggered the chain of events that soon toppled the despotic Marcos regime in the unprecedented Edsa People Power I.

Twenty years later, the group had no regrets, says Linda, who is now working as a senior consultant in the information technology department of Qantas Airways Limited, the largest airline company in Australia.

"I remain proud of the group," she says. "Once and for all, it wasn't a staged walkout. It was, as we said then, a spontaneous response to protest observed anomalies in the election count."

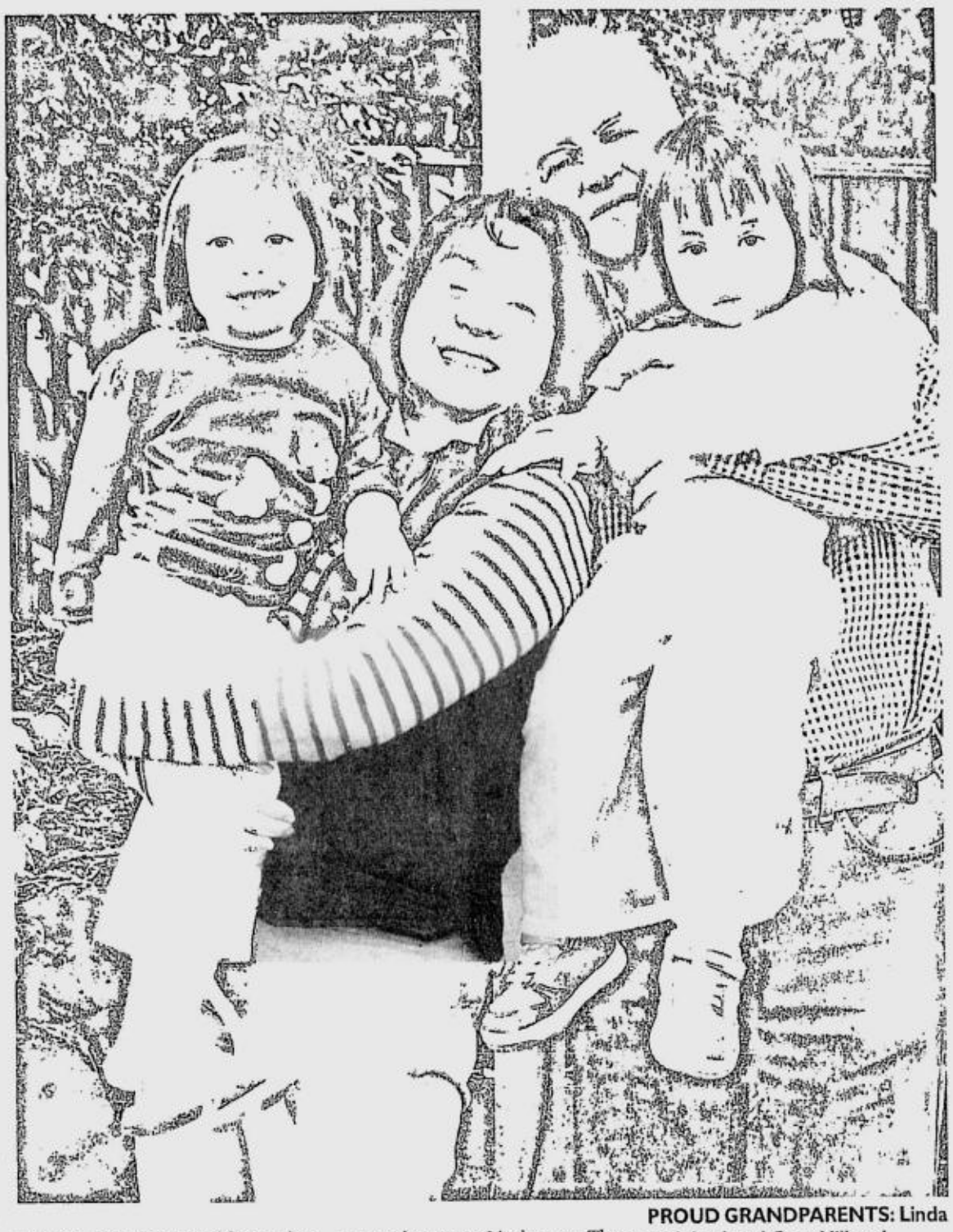
Intolerable situation

While the protest was an escape from an "intolerable situation," her migration to Australia in August 1988 was a "convenient escape" since her family was reeling from the Marcos regime at that time and IT skills were in demand in Australia.

At that time, her husband Red Kapunan, one of the leaders of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, was in strife under constant bickering and sniping from media and government. The political turmoil, which involved her husband who was implicated in the 1987 coup and the Olalia murder accusations, that accelerated the decision of Linda and family to migrate.

"Our family was quite harassed under those circumstances," Linda says. "I didn't want to leave but after many hours of *iyakan*, we agreed to leave the country to 'regroup' the family. Red was to join us in Australia when he was free to do so, or we would return if things got better." The move was indeed not a permanent solution.

Their daughter Kriscia, then 10 years old, had a poster beside her bed in Sydney bearing the words "This is temporary," a constant reminder that they would one day be completed again.



PROUD GRANDPARENTS: Linda with husband Greg Hill and grandchildren Sabine Tapia and Gaby Palma at a park near their home in Baulkham Hills, New South Wales, about 30 kilometers away from Sydney.

> While the protest was an escape from an 'intolerable situation,' her migration to Australia in August 1988 was a 'convenient escape' since her family was reeling from the Marcos regime

She recalls Kitinn, then 14, took a much longer time to adjust to the lifestyle and her new school, than Kriscia.

Collateral damage

Linda and her two young daughters had been the collateral damage. But the decision eventually became a "blessing and destiny" to the family who soon coped with the new environment.

Linda and Red later parted ways, however.

"Only heaven could've planned it so well," says Linda referring to the job waiting for her in Australia when she left the Philippines.

The move was not at all easy for the family but they treated it as an adventure, Linda says. They initially stayed with former officemates from the National Computer Center while looking for their own place.

"I guess you can say my children and I were collateral damage, even if now I have no misgivings about it," Linda says of her life now with Greg Hill, a software developer in Australia. "I feel secure and happy where I am."

New husband, new life

It was in Qantas where Linda met Greg whom she eventually wed in 1996 following a divorce from former husband in 1993. Greg is one of the reasons she's loving Australia. He is the house's "iron man" who does, well, the "ironing," she quips.

"I must say I am very happy with my life now," she says. "I'm with my children and their families, a great husband."

"The weather, the varied and rich culture, the food, the clean environment, my job, politics which though imperfect, works for simple people like me who pay taxes and get services and infrastructure in return."

"Cost," she says, " is not an issue in Australia. You don't have to break your back making money so you can pay for unwanted medical bills or services especially for the aged."

Linda says that she feels secure in the land Down Under without worrying too much about their future and medical requirements, by the time they get old.

"I know Greg and I can live a reasonably comfortable life here not so in the Philippines, unless we are rich."

In Australia, one needs not be rich, popular or dress up extravagantly to be treated well. Unlike in the Philippines, she says, there is no "obsession about appearance and stature here."

"I see it in (Philippine) newspapers and billboard ads for skin whiteners, beautiful but inept TV presenters, aging politicians with jet-black hair who are in politics for the wrong reasons," she says.

Australians treat each other well if one deserves it, not because one's name, looks or jewelry demands it. Respect is earned by one's honesty and strength of character, not by material or transient things, she adds.

"I used to be really passionate about Philippine politics even from here in Sydney. I used to scour every inch of Philippine newspapers that I could get my hands on. But I got more and more frustrated in the last few years," she says.

The largely heterogeneous culture in Australia has also enriched the family being exposed to a wider culture base.

"I like how the society, culture have enriched my own daughters here," she says. "I'm delighted that they buy stuff from St. Vincent de Paul [the Australian counterpart of "*ukay-ukay*"], have breast-fed their babies until the milk ran out, are hands-on mothers to their daughters and have chosen good, supportive husbands. If I may say so myself, their character is topnotch.

"We have become more adventurous and exploratory with food, choice of friends, activities and more tolerant of other people's habits and ways."

Sharing IT skills

From time to time, the couple visits the Philippines and is planning to make frequent visits to do some charity work by sharing their IT skills with her *kababayan*.

During her rest days, Linda does laundry and ironing just like every Filipino mother does. Weekends are spent at home with family and friends, often for a Filipinized Aussie barbecue.

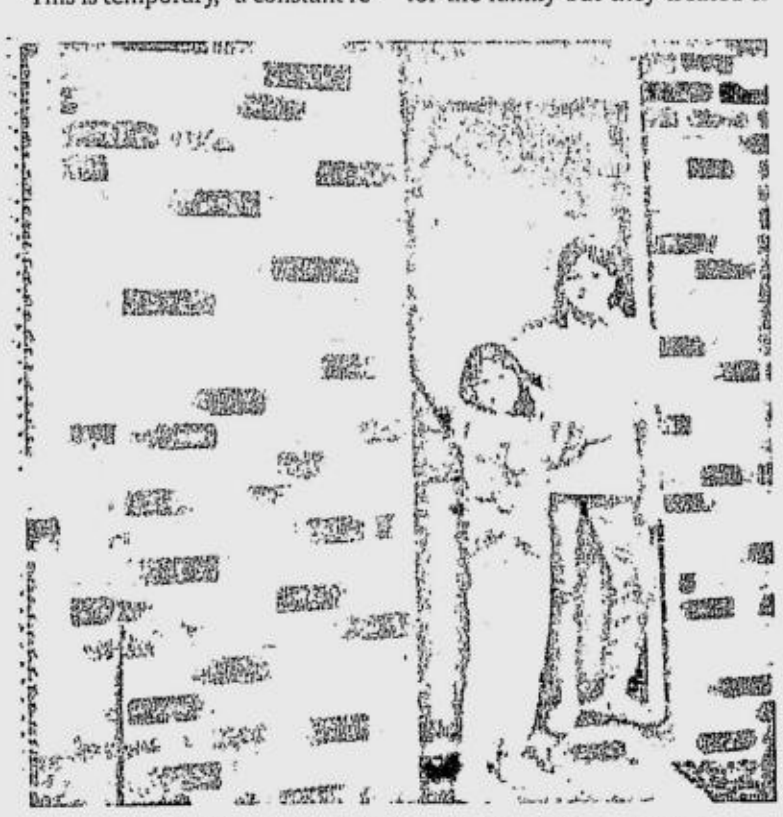
Only a few years away from retiring, this Davaoeña says she misses her family and friends in the province, the food and the native speak.

"I'm not planning to retire there (in the Philippines) because my immediate family is here, and I like my life here now," she says when asked of her retirement plans. "Besides, I can't afford to pay for any major and long-term medical expenses if we fall ill there."

But the woman who once figured in one of the country's most significant events says that although she plans to die in Australia, she wants to be cremated and have her urn rest in her family mausoleum in Davao.

"Greg knows that's my wish," she says.

PICC, 20 YEARS AFTER: Linda's colleagues at the great walkout during a reunion in February. From left: Bot Bautista, Thess Roberto, Cooly Culiat-Medina, Dennie Estolas-Vista, Luchi Lavin, Alice Torres, Gi Antonio-Silva, Mina Bergara, Maleen Cruz-Ngan, Jane Rosales-Yap, Shiony Asuncion-Binamira, Achie Concepcion-Jimenez, and Mayo Lavin.



NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK: Linda's daughters Kriscia and Kitinn in front of their first house in Sydney in September 1988.

NEW CATHOLIC FIND: Greg formally embraces Catholicism for the love of Linda during rites where their daughters Kriscia and Kitinn, sons-in-law Nestor Palma and Carlo Tapia, and grandchildren Sabine and Gaby stood as witnesses.

Priest Foley said molested him barred from all religious duties

MERCIECA AFP

MIAMI—THE ARCHDIOCESE OF Miami on Friday barred Rev. Anthony Mercieca from functioning as a priest anywhere in the world after confirming that he was the clergyman who Mark Foley said molested him in the 1960s.

Mercieca, who now lives in Malta, can no longer publicly celebrate Mass, administer the sacraments, or wear priestly clothes, said Mary Ross Agosta, a diocesan spokesperson.

Agosta apologized to Foley in a statement and described as repugnant Mercieca's intimate contact with him, which the priest disclosed to a Florida newspaper this week. Mercieca, 69, worked in South Florida for almost 40 years and remains under the auspices of the archdiocese.

"Such behavior is morally reprehensible, canonically criminal and inexcusable," Agosta said.

Foley, 52, resigned from the House of Representatives last month after the release of sexually explicit messages he had sent to teenage congressional pages. Soon after, his lawyer announced that Foley was gay, had gone into treatment for alcoholism, and had been molested by a clergyman when he was 13 to 15.

"An apology is due to Mr. Foley for the hurt he has experienced," Agosta said. So far, she said, no one else had reported sexual misconduct by Mercieca. He worked in at least eight parishes in South Florida since 1966, most recently at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church in Miami Springs between 1993 and 2003. Agosta said he left Florida to retire.

"There were absolutely no other problems," she said in an interview.

Though retired, Mercieca still said Mass every morning at a cathedral on Gozo, the Maltese island where he was raised and now lives with his brother, also a priest. *NYT*

Bush says he'll resist course change in Iraq

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush said on Friday he will resist election-year pressure for a major shift in strategy in Iraq, despite growing doubts among Americans and anxiety over the war among Republican lawmakers.

"Our goal in Iraq is clear and it's unchanging," Bush told Republican loyalists, denouncing Democrats who want a course correction as supporting a "doubt and defeat" approach.

But less than three weeks before Nov. 7 elections, pressure is growing in the US Congress for a major shift in a war that has cost the lives of at least 73 Americans in October alone.

"I don't believe we can continue based on an open-ended, unconditional presence," Maine Republican Sen. Olympia Snowe was quoted as saying in The Washington Post.

"I don't think there's any question about that, that there will be a change" in the US strategy in Iraq after the Nov. 7 congressional elections, she added.

Many Senate Republicans are awaiting the results of a special panel led by longtime Bush family friend and former Secretary of State James Baker, the Iraq Study Group, which is preparing recommendations for a shift in strategy.

The Baker report will not be issued until after the elections, in which Bush's Republicans risk losing control of the House of Representatives as well as the Senate.

White House officials say the recommendations will be reviewed seriously but have already rejected trial balloons such as a phased troop withdrawal, a dialogue with Iran and Syria, and a partitioning of Iraq.

Rumsfeld declined to say whether he believed a course correction was needed in Iraq.

"I think the way I'll leave it is I prefer to give my advice to the president," he said at the Pentagon. "I'm old-fashioned." Democratic leaders of the House and Senate wrote a letter to Bush urging him to change course, saying the situation was deteriorating and "there is no effective plan for improvement." "We've lost the hearts and minds of the people and we've become caught in a civil war," said Pennsylvania Democratic Rep. John Murtha, who drew Bush's ire a year ago by calling for a troop withdrawal from Iraq.

Bush, raising $1 million for Republican candidates, invoked President Ronald Reagan, saying Reagan had the strong will to win the Cold War and that it would take similar backbone to win the war against Islamic militants.

"Despite all of the opposition that the president faced from the Democrats, he didn't waiver," he said. "He stood for what he believed." *Reuters*

In US, second thoughts about stents

THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY IS HAVING second thoughts about stents.

Tiny metal sleeves placed in arteries to keep blood flowing, stents have become such a popular quick fix for clogged coronary vessels that Americans will receive more than 1.5 million of them this year.

And stents are a big business, generating $6 billion a year in sales for their makers and thousands of dollars in fees for each procedure performed by the specialists implanting them.

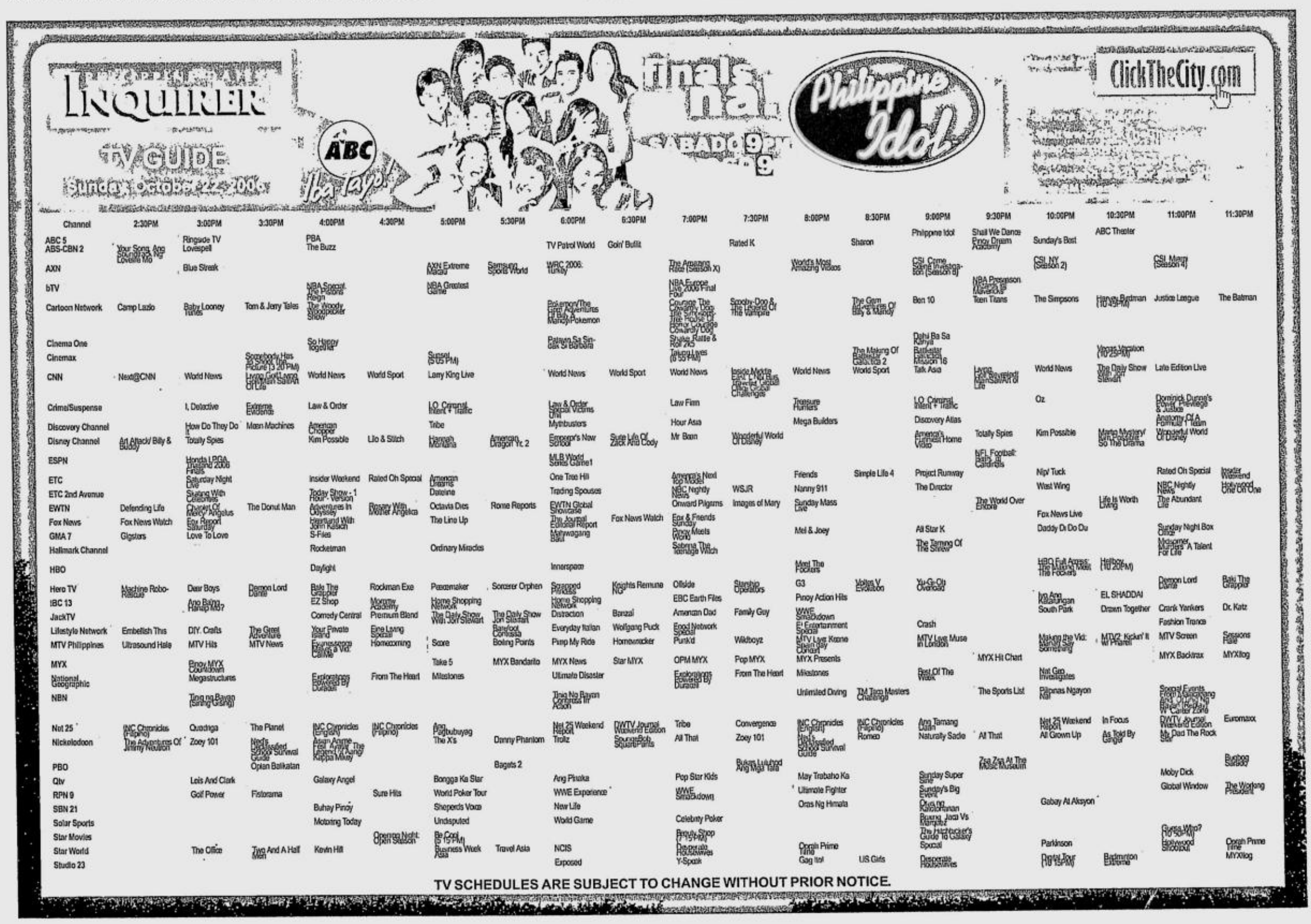
But stent sales are falling and some doctors are rethinking their faith in the devices, driven by emerging evidence that the newest and most common type—drug-coated stents—can sometimes cause potentially fatal blood clots months or even years after they are implanted.

The Food and Drug Administration said Friday that it would hold hearings in early December to consider whether to issue new stent safety guidelines.

The evidence indicates that overuse of stents may be leading to thousands of heart attacks and deaths each year, whether because stents are being used in relatively mild cases where drugs should be prescribed instead, or because patients are receiving drug-coated versions where simpler, cheaper bare-metal devices might work just as well.

Neither type of stent, no matter how much better it may make a patient feel, has been shown in rigorous clinical trials to improve long-term survival compared with other forms of treatment.

Stents, which first came into use in the 1990s, are inserted in arteries via a thin plastic catheter threaded through the circulatory system, usually starting from a small incision in the thigh. The stent, a hollow mesh cylinder, props an artery open after plaque has been pushed aside by inflation of a tiny balloon. *NYT*



Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5 ABS-CBN 2	Your Song: Ang Soundtrack Ng Lovelife Mo	Ringside TV Lovespell		PBA The Buzz				TV Patrol World	Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		Sharon	Philippine Idol	Shall We Dance Pinoy Dream Academy		ABC Theater		
AXN		Blue Streak				AXN Extreme Macau	Samsung Sports World	WRC 2006: Turkey		The Amazing Race (Season X)		World's Most Amazing Videos		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		Sunday's Best		CSI: Miami (Season 4)	
bTV				NBA Special: The Pistons Reign		NBA Greatest Game				NBA Europe Live 2006 Final Four					NBA Preseason Warriors Vs Minnesota				
Cartoon Network	Camp Lazlo	Baby Looney Tunes	Tom & Jerry Tales	The Woody Woodpecker Show				Pokemon/The First Adventures Of Ash & Misty/Pokemon		Courage The Cowardly Dog/The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy/Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends/Courage The Cowardly Dog	Spooby-Doo & The Legend Of The Vampire		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Ben 10	Teen Titans	The Simpsons	Harvey Birdman (10:45PM)	Justice League	The Batman
Cinema One				So Happy Together				Palawan Sa Sindak Si Barbara		Shake, Rattle & Roll 2k5				Dahil Ba Sa Kanya					
Cinemax			Somebody Has To Shoot The Picture (3:20 PM)			Sunset (5:05 PM)				Tatlong Lalaki (6:55 PM)			The Making Of Batman Begins 2	Batman Returns		Vegas Vacation (10:25PM)			
CNN	Next@CNN	World News	Living Golf: Living Golf With Sarah Of Life	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Inside Media: Earl, Chris & Dawnie Lead Chris Cagle Challenge	World News	World Sport	Talk Asia	Living Golf: Beyond Handicap Of Life	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Edition Live	
Crime/Suspense		I, Detective	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order		LO: Criminal Intent + Traffic		Law & Order: Lupus Victims Unit		Law Firm		Treasure Hunters		LO: Criminal Intent + Traffic		Oz		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice	
Discovery Channel		How Do They Do It	Mean Machines	American Chopper		Tribe		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Mega Builders		Discovery Atlas				Anatomy Of A Formula 1 Team	
Disney Channel	Art Attack/ Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies		Kim Possible	Lilo & Stitch	Hannah Montana	American Dragon Yr. 2	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Mr Bean	Wonderful World Of Disney			America's Funniest Home Video	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Maria Mystery/ Kim Possible/ So The Drama	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Honda LPGA Thailand 2006 Finals						MLB World Series Game1							NFL Football: Colts @ Cardinals				
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Insider Weekend	Rated Ch Special	American Dreams		One Tree Hill		America's Next Top Model		Friends	Simple Life 4	Project Runway		Nip/ Tuck		Rated Ch Special	Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue		Skating With Celebrities		Today Show - 1 Hour - Version		Dateline		Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News		Nanny 911		The Director		West Wing		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood Chit Chat One On One
EWTN	Defending Life	Chariot Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavia Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	WSJR	Sunday Mass Live			The World Over Encore	Life Is Worth Living		The Abundant Life	
Fox News	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		The Line Up		The Journal Editorial Report	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday	Images of Mary			All Star K		Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Gigstars	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul		Deep Water		Mel & Joey		The Taming Of The Shrew		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel				Rocketman		Ordinary Miracles				Sabrina The Teenage Witch								Midsomer Murders: A Talent For Life	
HBO				Daylight				Innerspace				Meet The Fockers				HBO Full Access: The Making Of Meet The Fockers	Hellboy (10:20PM)		
Hero TV	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler	Rockman Exe	Peacemaker	Sorcerer Orphen	Snapped Princess	Knights Remune NC	Offside	Starship Operators	G3	Volks V Evolution	Yu-Gi-Oh Overload		Ivo Ang Kasalungan South Park	EL SHADDAI	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler
IBC 13		Ano Bang Hanap Mo?		EZ Shop	Mommy Academy	Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network Distraction	Bonzai	EBC Earth Files		Pinoy Action Hits					Drawn Together	Crank Yankers	Dr. Katz
JackTV				Comedy Central	Premium Blend	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show Jon Stewart	Everyday Italian	Wolfgang Puck	American Dad		WWE SmackDown						Fashion Trance	
Lifestyle Network	Embellish This	DIY: Crafts	The Great Adventure	Your Private Island	Fine Living Special	Score	Barefoot Contessa	Pimp My Ride	Homewrecker	Food Network Special		El Entertainment Specials		Crash			MTV2: Kickin' It W Pharell	MTV Screen	Sessions Hale
MTV Philippines	Ultrasound Hale	MTV Hits	MTV News	Evanescence Makes a Vid: Call Me	Homecoming	Take 5	Boxing Points	MYX News	Star MYX	Punk'd	Pop MYX	MYX Presents		MTV Live: Muse In London	MYX Hit Chart	Nat Geo Investigates		MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown		Explorations Powered By Duracell	From The Heart	Milestones	MYX Bandarito	Ultimate Disaster		OPM MYX	From The Heart	Milestones		Best Of The Week		Pilipinas Ngayon			
National Geographic		Megastructures						Tinig ng Bayan (Sining Galing)		Explorations Powered By Duracell		Unlimited Diving	TM Taro Masters Challenge		The Sports List	Net 25 Weekend Report	In Focus	Special Events From Kapamilya Channel Holiday Bazaar Cartier Zone	
NBN		Tinig ng Bayan (Sining Galing)														All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	DWTV Special Weekend Edition	Euromaxx
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Quadriga	The Planet	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Pagbubuyag	Donny Phantom	Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Tamang Daan	All That	Zoo Zoo At The Music Museum		My Dad The Rock Star	
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Nick's Unbelievable School Survival Guide	Asian Anime Fest: Avatar, The Legend Of Kung Fu/ Kappa Mikey		The X's		Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Zoey 101	Romeo		Naturally Sadie					Euromaxx
PBO							Bagets 2				Bukas Luluhod Ang Mga Tala							Moby Dick	Bunbog Sarbay
Qtv		Lois And Clark	Opian Balikatan	Galaxy Angel		Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pisuka		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Serve				Global Window	The Working President
RPN 9		Golf Power	Fistorama			World Poker Tour		WWE Experience		WWE SmackDown		Ultimate Fighter		Sunday's Big Event		Gabay At Aksyon			
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepherds Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan					
Solar Sports				Motoring Today		Undisputed		World Game		Celebrity Poker				Bouncy Jaco Vs Mamaloy					
Star Movies					Opening Night: Open Season	Be Cool (5:15 PM)				Beauty Shop (7:15 PM)				The Hitchhiker's Guide To Galaxy Special				Guess Who? (10:50 PM)	
Star World		The Office	Two And A Half Men	Kevin Hill		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	NCIS		Desperate Housewives		Oprah Prime Time		Desperate Housewives		Parkinson		Hollywood Shootout	Oprah Prime Time
Studio 23								Exposed		Y-Speak		Gag Ito!	US Girls			Digital Tour (10:15PM)	Badminton Extreme		MYXilog

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2006

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Kim: No more nuclear tests planned

BEIJING—THE NORTH KOREA CRISIS APPEARED to have come off the boil on Saturday after reports saying Pyongyang had backed away from conducting further nuclear tests.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice ended a three-nation Asian tour to rally support for UN sanctions on North Korea over its Oct. 9 nuclear test, flying out of Beijing for Moscow.

She told reporters before leaving that North Korea's tone was still belligerent, and it was not clear if the unpredictable communist state was serious about returning to talks on winding up its nuclear arms program that broke down a year ago.

But Kim Kye-gwan, North Korea's top nuclear negotiator, told the ABC network's "Good Morning America" on Friday that Pyongyang hoped to return to the talks.

A report that North Korean leader Kim Jong-il had told a Chinese envoy no more nuclear tests were planned further raised hopes that the crisis was cooling.

"I understand he expressed clearly there was no plan to conduct nuclear tests," South Korea's Yonhap news agency quoted a diplomatic source as saying.

Japanese news agency Kyodo quoted Foreign Minister Taro Aso as saying he had information, although not confirmed, that Kim had said he would not conduct another test.

Rice's visits to Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing were overshadowed by speculation that North Korea would conduct another nuclear test, but Kim Kye-gwan ducked the question in the ABC interview.

"I think you can closely watch what happens," he said.

"We've not said there will be another test. Others have said that." Highlighting its defiance, however, North Korea said that more than 100,000 people had rallied in the main square of Pyongyang on Friday to hail the nuclear test.

"The nuclear test was an exercise of the independent and legitimate right of the DPRK (North Korea) as a sovereign state," its official KCNA news agency quoted Choe Thae-bok, a senior member of the Workers' Party of Korea, as saying.

North Korea's first nuclear test sparked worldwide condemnation and led to last a UN Security Council vote last weekend to impose economic and weapons sanctions on the country.

Rice won few commitments from China and South Korea on implementing the restrictions on their impoverished neighbor.

A traditional ally of North Korea, China is seen as having the greatest potential leverage over Pyongyang, but it also fears instability and a potential wave of refugees should sanctions against the North prompt its collapse.

It is opposed to interdictions of North Korean ships on the high seas, one measure authorized by the UN resolution, believing it could provoke Pyongyang into stronger action.

Rice said she had been assured China would be "scrupulous" in inspecting North Korean cargo on its border, but added:

"Let's just watch what the Chinese do." The Japanese daily Asahi Shimbun reported on Saturday that China had begun restricting some of its exports to North Korea, including oil and home appliances.

Quoting sources familiar with Sino-North Korean trade, the newspaper said Chinese customs authorities along the Tumen River were limiting the export of items such as television sets, radios, oil and petroleum products, but not food. *Reuters*

POWDERKEG SUBURBS

Paris fears upsurge in violence

PARIS—WHEN THE CALL WENT out about a car burglary in the raw suburb of Epinay sur Seine north of Paris last weekend, three officers in a patrol car rushed over and found themselves surrounded by 30 youths in hoods throwing rocks and swinging bats and metal bars.

Neither tear gas nor stun guns stopped the assault. Only when reinforcements arrived did the siege end. One officer was left with broken teeth and in need of 30 stitches to his face.

The attack was rough but not unique. In the last three weeks alone, three similar assaults on the police have occurred in these suburbs, which a year ago were aflame with the rage of unemployed, undereducated youth, mostly the offspring of Arab and African immigrants.

In fact, with the anniversary of those riots approaching, spiking violent crime statistics across the area suggest not only that things have not improved, but that they may well have worsened. Residents and experts say that fault lines run even deeper than before and that widespread violence may flare up again at any moment.

Last month, a leaked law enforcement memo warned of a "climate of impunity" in Seine-St.-Denis, the infamous district north of Paris that includes clusters of suburbs like Clichy-sous-Bois and Epinay-sur-Seine.

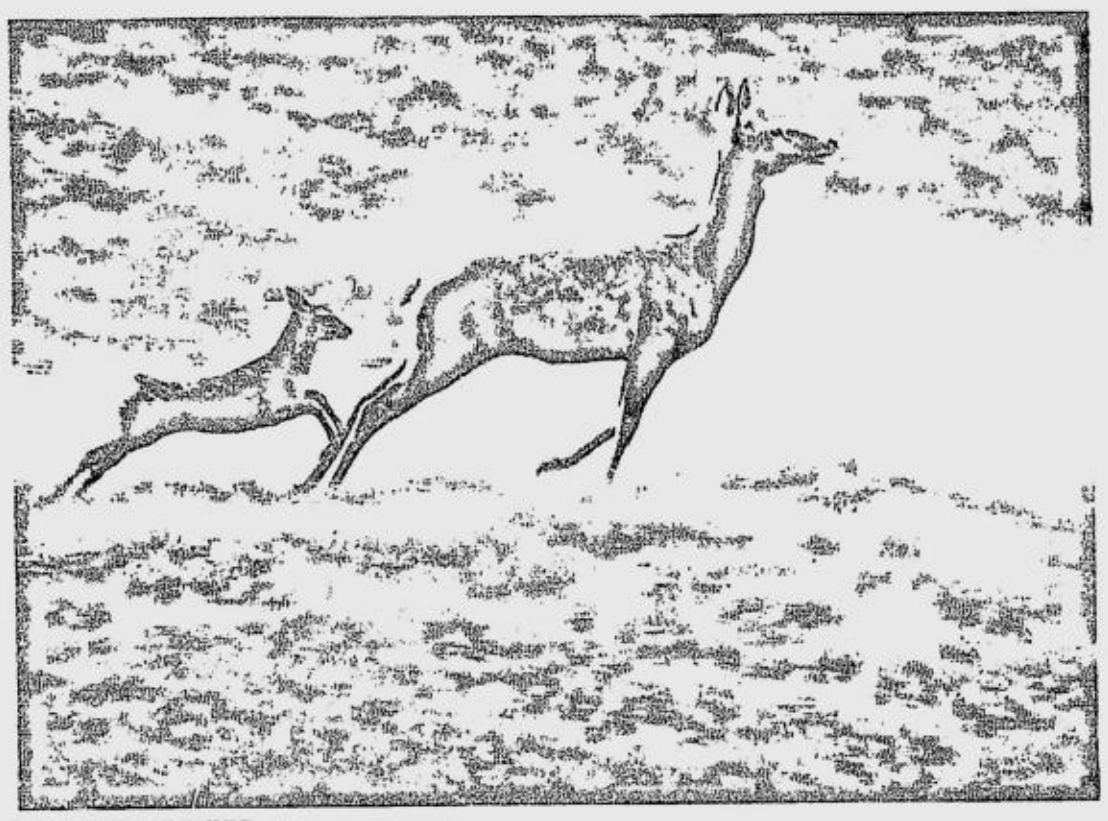
It reported a 23 percent increase in violent robberies and a 14 percent increase in assaults in the district of 1.5 million people in the first half of this year, complaining that young, inexperienced police officers were overwhelmed and the court system was lax. Only one of 85 juveniles arrested during the unrest was jailed, it added.

Next Friday is the anniversary of the electrocution death last year of two teenagers as (rumor had it) they were running from the police in Clichy-sous-Bois. The tragedy triggered a three-week orgy of violence in which rioters throughout France torched cars, trashed businesses, and ambushed police officers and firefighters, plunging the country into what President Jacques Chirac called "a profound malaise."

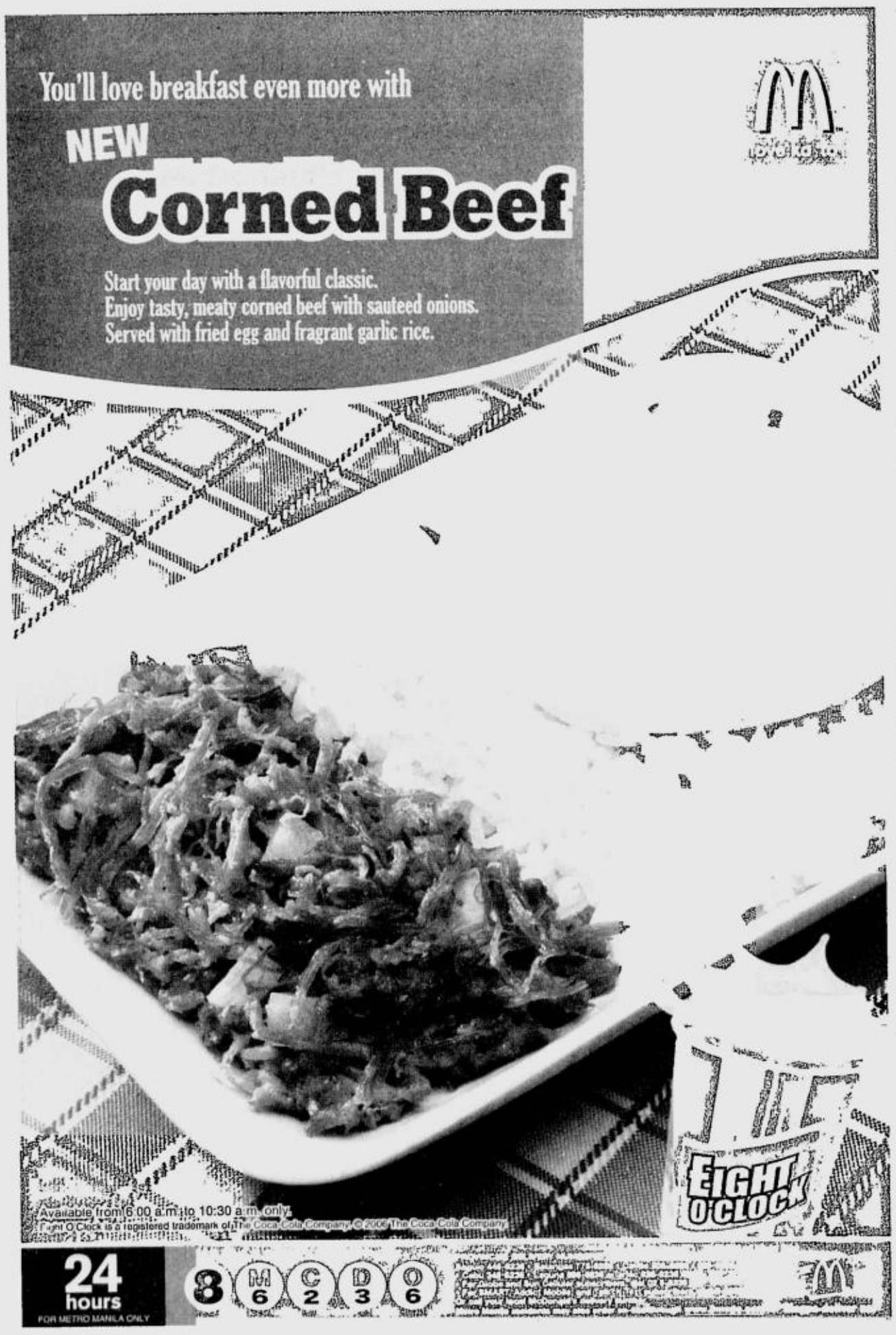
Interviews with residents and officials in half a dozen suburbs ringing Paris in recent weeks reflected the conviction that the government's main interest in them is to maintain security in advance of the presidential election next spring.

Clearly the French favor a tough line on security issues. According to an Ifop poll for Le Figaro published last month, 77 percent said the judicial system was not harsh enough against young offenders and 74 percent said the police should be given more powers to fight crime in the suburbs.

In the wake of the unrest last fall the government announced measures to improve life in the suburbs, including extra money for housing, schools, and neighborhood associations, and counseling and job training for unemployed youths. None have gone very far. *NYT*



TEST-TUBE DEER
The test-tube male sika fawn "Milou" (left), born August 25, and its surrogate mother, a common deer, at INRA, the national institute of agronomical research at Nouizilly, near Tours, France. INRA biologists announced that the technique of embryonic transfer could henceforth be applied to the protection of endangered species.



Buffet, Lloyd's in $7-B deal

THE SHADOW OF billions of dollars in asbestos and other claims that has hung over Lloyd's of London for nearly two decades finally lifted on Friday. And the man who pulled it off is one of the richest and savviest businessmen in the world, Warren E. Buffett.

Buffett agreed to pay up to $7 billion in claims for insurance that Lloyd's sold dating as far back as the 1920s and '30s. The claims at one point had threatened to ruin thousands of Lloyd's investors who had pledged their entire net worth to back up coverage.

Some investors suffered irreparable damage and all of them contributed to funding a separate company that Lloyd's set up in 1996, Equitas, to take over the claims and give Lloyd's a fresh start.

Nonetheless, investors worried that Equitas would run out of money, forcing them to pay whatever losses remained. But the involvement of Buffett and his companies, with their deep pockets, "ends all anxieties," said the Association of Lloyd's Members, which represents the individual investors, or Names. *NYT*

WORLDBRIEFS

France offers way out for Iran

UNITED NATIONS—France and its allies would suspend their quest for UN sanctions against Iran if Tehran responded to international concerns over its nuclear program, French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said on Friday. After four months of talks with the European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, Iran this month rejected demands that it suspend uranium enrichment, prompting preparations of a UN Security Council resolution. "If Iran does show goodwill, France and France's partners are prepared to suspend the procedure in front of the the UN Security Council," Alliot-Marie said. "The only condition is that there are indeed steps forward." "It is only insofar as there are steps forward that we will stop the path to sanctions," she said. "France, Britain and Germany are drafting a Security Council resolution expected to ban nuclear-related activities, which the West suspects are aimed at making a bomb. The three European countries have been negotiating with the United States, which wants tougher measures, before giving a text to Russia and China and then the entire 15-member council, diplomats close to the talks said. *Reuters*

US clerk arrested in stadium threat hoax

BRAHM REUTERS

NEWARK, N.J.—A 20-year-old Wisconsin man was arrested Friday and charged with posting messages on Internet chat boards threatening that radioactive "dirty bombs" would go off at National Football League stadiums in seven cities on Sunday. Federal officials labeled the threat a hoax on Thursday, but at a news conference on Friday to announce the arrest, the US attorney in Newark, Christopher J. Christie, called it the "Internet version of yelling 'Fire!' in a crowded theater in this post-9/11 era." Law enforcement officials said that the message posted by the man, Jake J. Brahm, a clerk at a natural-foods grocery cooperative in Wauwatosa, Wis., explained that the timing of the threatened explosions coincided with the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and that al-Qaida would take credit for what members would call "America's Hiroshima." General chaos would follow, the message said, with civil wars erupting across the globe and economies collapsing. *NYT*

Human remains found on 9/11 site

NEW YORK—Human remains thought to be from victims of the Sept. 11 attacks have been discovered by utility workers removing rubble from manholes where the World Trade Center once stood, a city official said on Friday. "Human remains were recovered. We will be trying to do what we can to try to identify those remains," said Ellen Borakove, spokesperson for New York's chief medical examiner. She said the office would run DNA tests in hopes of matching the parts with profiles gathered since the attacks. Local media reports said a few arm and leg bones as well as identification cards had been found on Thursday, but Borakove would not confirm that. More than five years after the attacks, 1,150 of the 2,749 victims of the New York attack have either not been identified or recovered. *Reuters*

Lula's lead widens before Brazil runoff

LULA AFP

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL—Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva widened his lead over rival Geraldo Alckmin to 24 points in a poll released on Friday that showed him poised to win reelection in the Oct. 29 runoff. A survey by Ibope polling firm released by TV Globo showed Lula would win 62 percent of the valid votes, compared with 57 percent in a poll released on Oct. 12, as he brushed off the effects of a recent political scandal. Alckmin, a former Sao Paulo state governor and a conservative favored by many business leaders, would win 38 percent of valid votes, down from 43 percent last week. The poll, carried out on Wednesday and Thursday, surveyed 3,010 voters and had a margin of error of two percentage points. Lula, Brazil's first working-class president, was expected to win the election in the first round on Oct. 1, but a political scandal, in which police caught aides in his Workers' Party trying to buy a dossier intended to smear opponents, undermined his campaign. *Reuters*

Sunday SPORTS

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ERIK Morales (left) with Manny Pacquiao after a weigh-in ceremony in Las Vegas last January. They will again figure in a colossal battle on Nov. 18 to determine who's superior. AP

Morales 142, Pacquiao 135

SCORE THE FIRST ROUND FOR ERIK Morales.

In a bid to stop his detractors, Mexican icon Erik Morales stepped on the scales yesterday in Mexico City and easily hurdled the mandated 30-day weigh-in as he prepares for his biggest battle against Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao Nov. 18 at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas.

Morales, a three-time world champion, came in at a trim 142 pounds, just a pound under the maximum 143 allowed by the World Boxing Council, which requires fighters not to weigh more than 10 percent of the regulatory weight 30 days before the fight.

Pacquiao, who is training at the Wild Card Boxing Club in Los Angeles under trainer Freddie Roach, is now down to 135 pounds according to reports Thursday and is expected to easily make the 130 limit during the official weigh-in.

Morales and Pacquiao duke it out for the WBC International super featherweight title for the third time in a clash dubbed the "Grand Finale" after splitting their first two encounters.

After the weigh-in, Morales took part in a press conference arranged by Top Rank's Bob Arum, where he declared that he felt "unbelievably strong" following his stint at the Velocity Sports Performance and under the watchful eyes of his father Jose at the Otomi mountains, which is located north of Mexico City. Meanwhile, Top Rank announced that over 10,000 tickets have been sold for the fight. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

Peñalosa vs ex-world titlist

FORMER WORLD BOXING COUNCIL SUPER FLYweight champion Gerry Peñalosa sees action for the first time today under the banner of Oscar De la Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions when he takes on former WBO bantam champ Mauricio Martinez at the Don Haskins Center in El Paso, Texas. The 10-round clash has been included in the pay-per-view broadcast following the cancelation of the bout pitting Filipino Jimrex Jaca and Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez due to Jaca's visa problems. *Salven Lagumbay*

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San Beda, UE clash for title

Champs League final up

A HEALTHY SAM EKWE IS EXpected to be the key when the San Beda Red Lions shoot for the Collegiate Champions League crown against the University of the East Warriors today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Ekwe, feeling occasional pain despite claims of full recovery from a hyper-extended right knee, will still be the Lions' main man in the winner-take-all title match at 4 p.m.

Coach Koy Banal thinks the Lions' biggest problem will be the Warriors' formidable system.

"We have Sam, but they have the quickness," said Banal. "Their system really puts their opponent in a situation where they get very pressured."

Ekwe, the NCAA's Most Valuable Player-Rookie of the Year awardee, finished with only two points but still collected 12 rebounds and four blocks in his last outing.

With the 6-foot-8 center sidelined in the closing minutes, Yousif Aljamal, Pong Escobal and Ogie Menor kept the Lions together for a 61-58 semifinal escape against wildcard bet Jose Rizal Bombers.

The Bombers and the Mapua Cadinals will dispute third spot earlier at 2 p.m.

Fresh from their NCAA championship run, the Lions will be vying for their second varsity title in two months.

"When we went into the (NCAA) Finals, there was so much pressure," said Banal. "I think that will help us. We can bring that experience in our game this Sunday."

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Coliseum)*
2 p.m.—Mapua vs JRU (for 3rd)
4 p.m.—UE vs San Beda (for title)

Coach Dindo Pumaren admits the momentum is on the Lions side after his highly touted Warriors settled only for third place in the UAAP.

"San Beda still looks very confident," said Pumaren. "But some of our players like (Toto) Bandaying are just showing their real game. (James) Martinez also set the tempo for us."

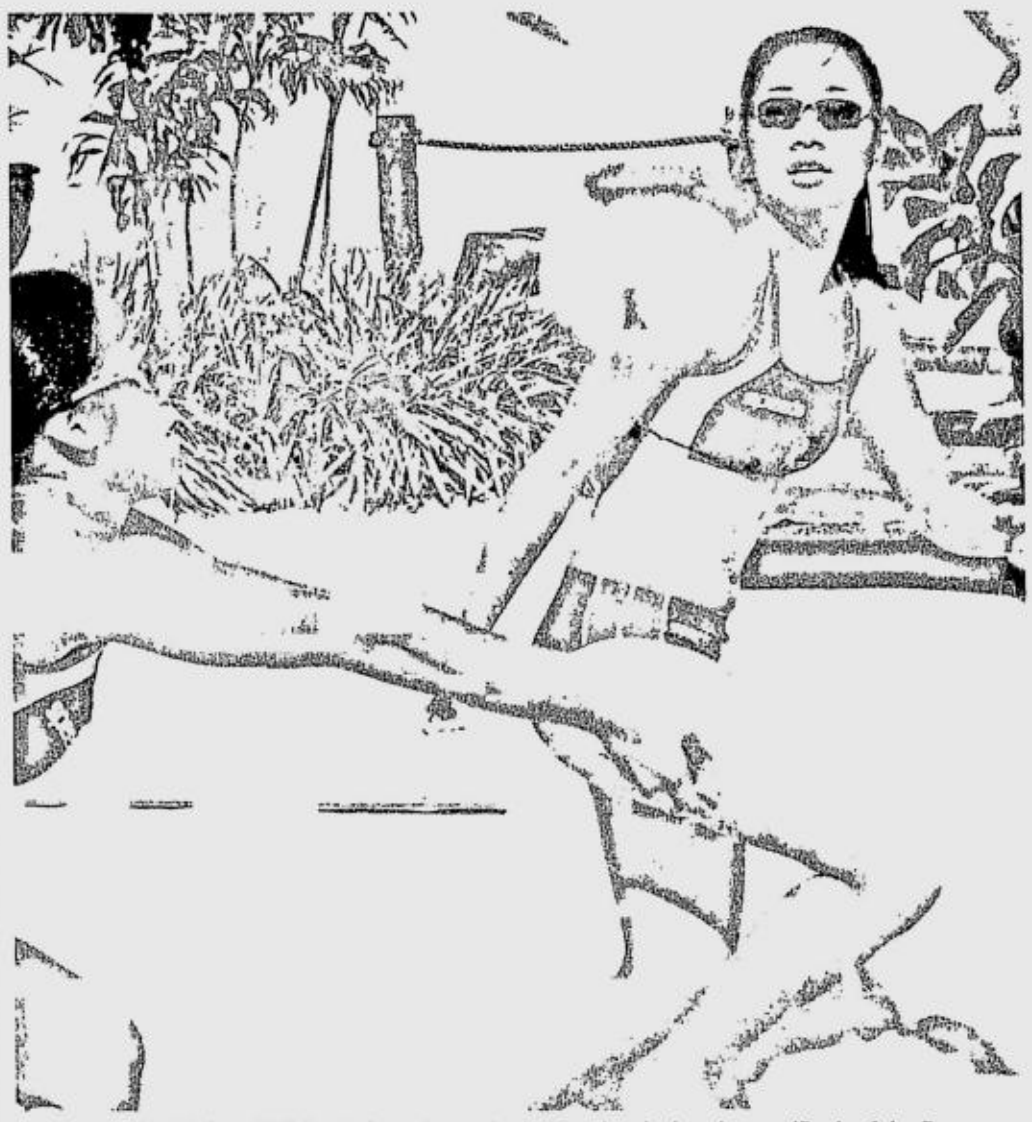
Bandaying, a rookie from Zamboanga, shot a team-high 17 points in the Warriors' semifinal triumph, 83-74, against the Cardinals.

Martinez also finished with 10 markers, ably supporting top gunners Marcy Arellano and Mark Borboran.

A scholarship and other prizes worth P500,000 will be awarded to the league champion.

The tournament began with the top 16 collegiate teams in the country competing in a knockout format. Among the early casualties were UAAP champion Santo Tomas Tigers, top-seeded Ateneo Blue Eagles and southern powerhouse University of Visayas.

Jasmine W. Payo



BEA Pascual (right) and Misha Quimpo keep the ball in play during the semifinals of the Petron Ladies' Beach Volleyball Battle of the Champions at the Kidzworld resorts in Cavite. ROMY HOMILLADA

S. Africa pads lead; RP way off

STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA—THE Philippines continued to flounder in the World Amateur Golf Team Championship despite a 73 from Dottie Ardina even as South Africa pulled away in the third round at the De Zalze and Stellenbosch golf courses Friday.

Ardina gunned down three birdies in the last 13 holes to make up for her poor start of four bogeys in the first five holes in a 39-34 card at De Zalze.

But that effort went for naught as Cyna Rodriguez could do nothing but a 79 while Debbie de Villa soared to a 91. With a 152 total for the day and a 455 aggregate, the RP ladies dropped to 29th place, 37 strokes off the South Africans, who led the Swedes by four.

Distrito, a star cager in jail

IT WAS AN IMPROMPTU DINNER INVITAtion from longtime friends Elmer Yanga—this season's UAAP commissioner—and his wife Esper.

Elmer said they were at a coffee shop along West Avenue—a place called Pastry Passion which is owned by daughter-in-law Shirley Santos-Yanga and is just a stone's throw from where I live.

"If you're at home and not doing anything, please join us for pasta, pastries, and a long overdue chat," said Elmer.

Since we had not gotten together for some time and the couple had motored all the way from their Cainta residence, I did not hesitate to say yes.

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

* * *

There was indeed a lot of chatting to catch up on. Just before the opening of the 2006 UAAP season, Elmer and Esper had flown to New York to attend their eldest son Jomer's wedding. Before that, they made a side trip to Los Angeles and Carson City where they visited the Distritos.

Sadly, Rudy is still serving time in a Las Vegas jail while his wife Jo is working triple time to support their children and raise money for legal services.

Rudy's incarceration has become much bearable, they said, ever since he started playing his favorite game with cellmates.

According to Elmer, two basketball teams play regularly in the Las Vegas jail. One is composed of Latinos, the other black Americans. Members of the two squads would constantly curry favors with Rudy, both fighting for his services.

Rudy has achieved star status on account of his cage prowess, Elmer said. Distrito makes a difference for the team he chooses to play for, he explained.

The Yangas were given the real dope on the Distrito case but they said this was not for public sharing.

While in New York, Elmer said he managed to touch base with former PBA cager Yoyoy Villamin who is now based there.

"Yoyoy works as a driver in Brooklyn, I just forgot to ask if he was driving a taxi, a bus, or a private vehicle."

* * *

Long retired from RFM corporation where he was assigned by Joey Concepcion to look after his PBA team as manager and governor for more than a decade, Elmer is happy to be reactivated.

"There's going to be a ninth team in the PBL this season," Elmer happily announced. "RFM is joining the league as a guest team which will carry Joey Concepcion's popcorn product called Kettlecorn. I will be involved in the team."

Kettlecorn will be composed of UST players, the 2006 UAAP champions.

* * *

A popular UAAP cager, who played in this season's finale, has incurred the ire of a PBL team owner who now has mixed emotions about the guy.

While the owner wants the cager badly, he is also completely turned off by his off-court antics.

"He has an attitude problem. He has cancelled two meetings with my team manager. He tells people he doesn't need to play in the PBL, because he'll still be the first pick even if he goes straight from the collegiate league to the pros. That boy thinks he's God's gift to basketball," the owner said.

SALVADOR Arellano Game Fowl Art and Other Works ROGER MARGALLO

Sports art: Pride and joy

By Recah Trinidad

HE'S NOT EFREN "BATA" REYES QUIetly weaving magic, not Manny Pacquiao exploding inside the boxing ring.

But, going by the merits and relevance of what he has mounted, all eyes must be on traveler Dodong Arellano, whose fine art will be on a four-hour display (6 to 10 p.m.) in today's launch of his book "Game Fowl Art and Other Works" at the Cameron Forbes Room of the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

True, nothing much has been locally heard of this native artist, now based in California, who has quietly enthralled with evocative frames of sporting creatures, mainly the race horse and the game cock, some of which have landed in the collections of HRH Prince Charles, former British PM Margaret Thatcher, the Sultan of Brunei, Hall-of-Famer Willie Shoemaker, Danding and Gretchen Cojuangco.

All the major frames are events in themselves as Arellano, who never attended art school, defies fancy technique and uses inborn gift for a warm, lyrical portrayal of subjects in their real grace and full majesty.

The frames are odes to being, a skilled sculpting of character in, say, the manner Hemingway had injected quiet dignity into the veins of his heroes, like the old man Santiago (Old Man and the Sea) and Anselmo (For Whom the Bell Tolls).

Arellano, resident artist of the LA Equestrian Club, will be on hand to sign the books which should also be the pride of every Pinoy.

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Scribes race vs celebrities

SCRIBES CHRONICLING THE EXPLOITS OF racing stars will be behind the wheels today as they race against celebrities and sponsors' guests in an enduro race dubbed the AF3 Karting Challenge at the Speedzone track at The Fort.

The event is organized by the Asian Formula Three Corp. and intends to give scribes and celebrities, plus other competitors, the chance to experience the high of motorsport, albeit on a lesser degree.

"This enduro challenge will give media people and celebrities, plus AF3 guests, the chance to experience for themselves the fast and furious world of racing," said AF3 chair Eddie Pena." Although karting is several notches lower, in terms of speed, to AF3 racing, this will surely give competitors a high."

The Philippine Sportswriters Association has organized a team for the event that will race against squads from the Department of Tourism, Mossimo, Lima City Hotel, PLDT-myDSL, Oxy Enhanced Water, Yokohama Tires, Samsung and Silver City.

Local racing stars Tyson Sy, Dado Peña, Michele Bumgarner and Gaby dela Merced will grace the event and will act as trainers and coaches for the various teams, giving tips on track safety and racing maneuvers during the practice sessions starting at 2 p.m.

Other noted drivers lending their expertise to the event are Irishman John O'Hara, Manny Borja, Eric Camarillo, former AF3 champion Pepon Marave and Roland Hermoso.

Macau side trip added to golfest

A SIDE TRIP TO MACAU WITH PHILIPPINE Airlines as official carrier will spice up the 11th Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines Asian golf tournament in Shenzen, China, on Nov. 8-12.

Golf Holidays, Inc. announced yesterday that after a practice round at the Ernie Els course and a first round at the Vijay Singh course at Mission Hills and a second and final round at the Shenzen Country Club on Nov. 10, participants have the option to make a side trip either to Disneyland, Hong Kong or Macau. Call Pauline Sevilla at 0920-9199000 or at 724917 and 7212667 loc. 110, fax no. 7215940 or email rgffp1987@yahoo.com.

Reyes top Pinoy in ROK tilt

FRANCO VICTOR REYES, THE YOUNGEST member of the four-man Philippine contingent at 10, emerged as the top Filipino driver in the recent ROK International World Finals Karting Championship in Lonato, Italy.

Though Reyes, a Grade Four Ateneo student, only landed 13th in the final race of the Mini ROK class, he was able to reach the top eight during the pre-final.

Unfamiliarity with the track and going up against much older European karters prevented Reyes from achieving his goal of finishing on the podium.

"The Europeans and South Africans were so aggressive," a sobbing Reyes said after the finals. "They were bumping and banging my kart from all sides. And I can't do anything because they were so much bigger and stronger. But definitely, I will fight back next year!"

REYES

Reyes' father, film director Mandy, added: "For the Filipinos to achieve the level of skill of the Europeans, they should participate more in these kinds of races to get the necessary experience and race craft to compete with the world's best."

Franco Reyes will compete in the Shell Superkarting Series in Carmona, Cavite, next month, and in two classes of the Asian Karting Championship in Macau in December.

Pinoys falter as Jyoti grabs lead

JYOTI RHANDHAWA FIRED A 64 yesterday to grab a one-stroke lead after three rounds of the Hero Honda Indian Open at the Delhi Golf Club in New Delhi England.

Filipino golfers, though, did not have as much success as Gerard Rosales remained the country's best hope after a 70 put him in a five-way tie for 19th place, his six-under card 10 shots off pace.

Angelo Que had a decent 68, but added to so-so rounds of 72-71 in the first two days to settle for solo 24th with a 211.

Cookie La'O and Artemio Murakami were further below, with La'O managing just a 75 for a 210 aggregate.

Murakami, on the other hand, added a 75 to twin 72s to stand at 219, 19 shots off pace.

SSP Chowrasia had a 67 to stay within a shot of the lead going into the final round.

England's Simon Dyson had a four-under 68, putting him at 13 under for the tournament and two strokes off the lead.

Chowrasia, nicknamed "Chipputtsia" because of his magical short game, carded five birdies and an eagle.

A multiple winner of titles in India, he is a rookie on the Asian Tour this year and hit the headlines at the Mercuries Taiwan Masters in September where he led after the second round but was disqualified for not signing his scorecard.

"I have got over the disappointment of the disqualification in Taiwan," he said. "It is now something in the past. In fact I did not play in China last week just to take my mind off (it) and it has helped a lot."

"I am more relaxed after having spent the week at home in Kolkata."

His father was the green keeper at Royal Calcutta Golf Club and he was able to develop a brilliant short game *AP, AFP*

Ateneo slips past La Salle golfers

TRECE MARTIREZ CITY—THE Green Archers dominated four-ball matches, winning four of six matches Saturday to prevent the Blue Eagles from pulling away in the Fil Estate Land Inc. (FELI) La Salle-Ateneo Match Play golf championship at the Sherwood Hills Golf and Country Club here.

With six matches still going on at presstime, the Eagles nurse a 9.5-8.5 lead over the defending champions.

The Archers showed nerves of steel in winning two matches on the 18th hole.

Miko Yee and Chucky Hong stunned veterans Junjun Plana and Jose Mari Hechanova, 1-up, to draw first blood for the Archers.

Another match was settled on the final hole when Miko Alejandro and Anya Tanpinco edged Jeric Hechanova and Marcel Puyat, 1-up.

Ronnie Littaua and King Stehmeier beat Anthony Fernando and Manoling Chan, 3 and 2, while Raffy Garcia and JP Reyes turned back Pepot Iñigo and Eric Gozo.

The Eagles' Jingy Tuason and Venjo Reyes who whipped Justin Limjap and Oliver Gan, 2-up.

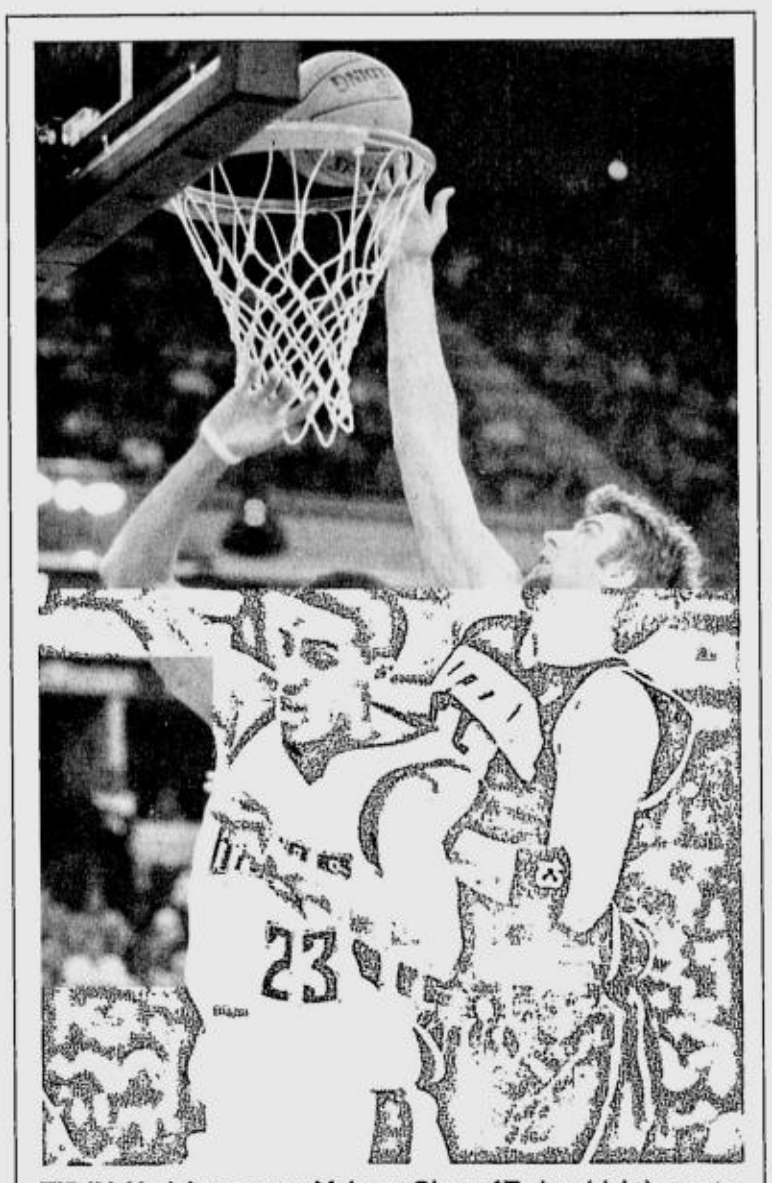
La Salle's Francis Gaston and Raymund Sangil and Ateneo's Louie Dacudao and Jovi Neri drew their match.

The Eagles took an 8-4 lead Friday when they dominated the foursomes late in the afternoon, winning five of six matches.

Dacudao and Neri edged Tommy Manotoc and Charles Hong, 1-up.

Hechanova and Gozo crushed William Hong and JP Reyes, 6 and 5; Marty Ilagan and Benjie Sarmiento made mincemeat of Raffy Garcia and Miko Yee, 4 and 3; Pepot Inigo and Marcel Puyat toyed with Stehmeier and Louie Garcia, 4 and 3.

Tigers, Cards start hunt



TIP-IN: Utah Jazz center Mehmet Okur, of Turkey (right) goes to the basket for a tip-in over Sacramento Kings guard Kevin Martin during the first quarter of an NBA preseason basketball game in Sacramento, California. AP

Detroit, St. Louis eye a fairy-tale ending

DETROIT, MICHIGAN—FAIRY-tale seasons have brought the Detroit Tigers and St. Louis Cardinals to the World Series but only one can end a title drought to live happily ever after as Major League Baseball's champion.

The Tigers, who have had a week off since winning the American League crown, rebounded from a league-record 119-loss campaign in 2003 and 13 losing seasons in a row to reach the best-of-seven showdown for the first time since 1984.

"We never had a chance in anybody's mind but ours," Tigers third baseman Brandon Inge said. "We've come too far to stop now. You don't come this far to be second best."

The Cardinals, with the worst record of any playoff team after a late-season slump that nearly cost them a berth, outlasted the New York Mets to win the National League crown but have only a day's rest before game one here Saturday.

"We never gave up. We always believed in ourselves," Cardinals pitcher Jeff Suppan said.

The Tigers defeated San Diego in 1984 for their fourth title in their past five appearances. St. Louis last took the throne in 1982 but lost in 1985, 1987 and 2004.

Detroit swept a three-game regular-season series between the clubs in June and will be favored to hand the Cardinals a fourth consecutive World Series defeat.

"We're still the underdog," Cardinals slugger Albert Pujols said. "They can hit. They can flat out hit."

So can Detroit. Shortstop Carlos Guillen batted .320 with 19 home runs, 20 stolen bases and 85 run batted in while Ivan Rodriguez hit .300 and Magglio Ordonez hit .298 with 24 homers and drove in 104 runs.

Craig Monroe smashed a team-high 28 homers while Inge added 27 and leadoff man Curtis Granderson hit 19.

The Tigers will also have veteran Sean Casey as the designated hitter after suffering a left calf injury in game one of the league finals sweep of Oakland. Casey went 6-for-17 against the New York Yankees in the first round.

Rookie right-hander Justin Verlander, who went 17-9 this season, was named the game one starting pitcher Friday by Tigers manager Jim Leyland with 41-year-old southpaw Kenny Rogers, a stunning 17-8, in Sunday's game two.

Southpaw Nate Robertson will pitch game three Tuesday in St. Louis with Jeremy Bonderman to start game four.

Because they have had no time to rest, the Cardinals will have to adjust their pitching rotation. *AFP*

RP Blu Boys test Japanese mettle

THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED CLASH BETWEEN the RP Blu Boys and defending champion Japan is expected to heat up the action in the 8th Asian Men's Softball Championship slated Nov. 2 to 5 in Kita-Kyushu, Japan.

The RP team, made up mostly of national players who won a gold in the Manila Southeast Asian Games last year, was selected by the Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines headed by Jean Henri Lhuillier.

"This is another great opportunity for our players to carry our flag in an international event wherein we will be able to play against Asia's best," said Lhuillier.

Aside from Japan and the Philippines, other participating countries are Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Thailand.

But all eyes will be on the Philippines and Japan, which is gunning for its third consecutive championship.

Last held in 2003 at the Rizal Memorial ballpark, the tournament is Asia's most prestigious in men's softball. The biennial event was won by the Philippines three times, the last in 1990. The tournament also serves as a qualifier for the next International Softball Federation's (ISF) men's World Championship.

The Philippines joined Japan and Chinese-Taipei in the World Championship in New Zealand in 2004 following a second place finish in the 2003 Asian Championship.

The team is made up of 2003 tournament MVP Mark Rae Ramirez. Apol Rosales, Fidel Moncera, Orlando Binarao, Manuel Binarao, Rogelio Rojas Jr., Florante Acuña, Ulysses Mejia, Ronelon Pagkaliwagan, Jasper Cabrera, Oscar Bradshaw IV, Romeo Bumagat, Melvin Villegas, Ben Maravilles, Dario Bacarisas, Isidro Abello and Rizel Santos. Head coach is Alejandro Estipular assisted by Isaac Bacarisas, Joel Binarao and Randy Dizer.

SPORTSWATCH

Submission warriors conquer foes

FIGHTERS BELONGING TO ERWIN TAGLE'S TEAM SUBMISSION SPORTS POSted quick wins in the Fearless Fighting Championships at the Metrowalk in Pasig City recently. Part-time swim coach Froilan Sarenas and Adrian Hillana overcame Sprawl's Gilbert Ombao and Tough Guy's Peter Pedroza, in the 180-190 kg and 170-180 kg categories, respectively, in the first round. Tagle's third fighter, Timmy Ledesma, beat Fight Club's Angelo Lazzarito in Round 2 of the 140-150 kg class.

11 imports join Philracom Stakes

THE SIXTH AND FINAL LEG OF THE PHILRACOM IMPORTED STAKES SERIES will be held today at the Santa Ana Park. Carrying a total prize pot of P600,000, the event showcases 11 classy imports led by series veterans' California Lady (Australia) and Badge Of Honor (Australia).

MY Games National today

THE 2ND MANILA YOUTH GAMES NATIONAL INVITATIONAL FIRES OFF TODAY amid glittering opening ceremonies at the San Andres Sports and Civic Center in Malate, Manila. The Games will be ushered in by music, dances, Ati-Atihan fanfare and a Bollywood-inspiredsports cultural performance featuring the Manila Dance Center and the Philippine taekwondo demonstration team. Manila Sports Council chair Arnold "Ali" Atienza said nearly 40 local government units are participating.

Five cockers top Roligon derby

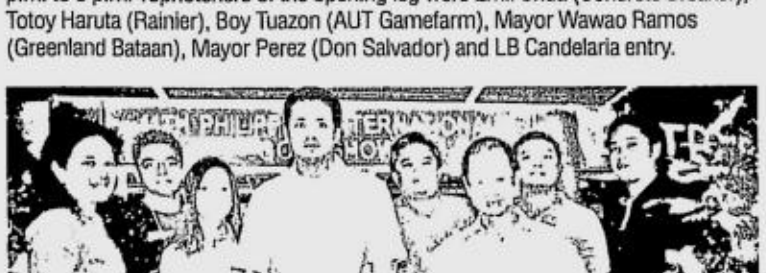
FIVE COCKERS RULED THE 135-ENTRY DIAMANTE BROTHERS 5-STAG DERBY on Thursday night at Roligon Mega Cockpit. With identical 5-0 (win-loss) slates were co-champions George Abcede, Dado Andal, Cesar Ramirez, Buboy delos Santos and backyard breeder Muling Dorado who got the bonus of Honda XRM for being the fastest win champion. Up next is the Clean-Up 4-stag derby (70 entries or more) on Tuesday with P400,000 in prize for an entry fee of P6,000.

LGBA Grand Championship

FROM A HUGE FIELD OF 395 WHO TOOK PART IN THE LAST THREE LEGS, 26 participants comprised the elite cast of contenders who will battle it out on Nov. 7 in the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) Grand Championship 5-stag derby at Araneta Coliseum. Based on LGBA's official tally, the pacesetters are Romy Tan (12.5 points); Dalwin Yulangco and Joey Mendoza (12); Benny Lim and Vice Gov. Windell Chua (11); Alfe Soriano, Pablo Tan and Rep. Conrad Estrella (10.5); and Fred Katigbak, Buddy Robrigado, Jun Guia, Serge Jimenez, Louie Madlambayan, Freddie Lim, Dante Tomagos, Ramon Cruz (10).

SJC circuit derby set Oct. 23

THE SHOWDOWN OF PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS WILL BE THE highlight of SJC Circuit 5-stag derby series Monday at San Juan Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Entries are up for submission today at SJC office, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Topnotchers of the opening leg were Emil Chua (Concrete Breaker), Totoy Haruta (Rainier), Boy Tuazon (AUT Gamefarm), Mayor Wawao Ramos (Greenland Bataan), Mayor Perez (Don Salvador) and LB Candelaria entry.



GOLF SHOW: The 11th Philippine International Golf Show ends today at the SM Megatrade Hall 2. Cutting the ceremonial ribbon recently are, Nancy Ortiga of WGAP, GDAP vice president Dick Posadas, Golfshow Seminars chairperson Ana Herrera, Golf Show chair and GDAP treasurer Richie Macapagal, GDAP trustee Raymund Atendido, Antonio Coronel of ICTSI, GDAP auditor Mert Besa and GDAP president Lovell Gopez.

BY TOP CHOICE

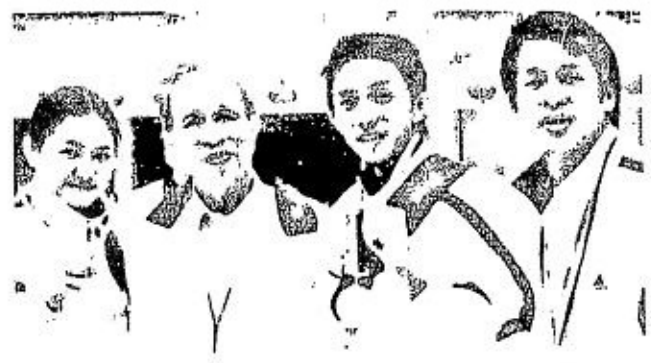
Race 1—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Mestiso Mio (3), Jabez (6), Ask Alexiz (4), Super Jambol (2), Goldsphere (8)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Habagat/Queen Of Gaia (2), Leading Man (4), American Beauty (6), West Swinger (5)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Cristina (3), Tigerific (2), Kalbigan (8), Beyond Glory (4), Venus D'Goddess (11)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Dondon's Entry (4), Best In Class (1), Expiditer (5), Ravishing Raffy (6)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Astig/Harrod's Magic (2), Twin Tower (5), Reporter (8), Spanish Drums (3)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Jet Sutter (1), Hard To Find (7), Sambat (8), Karma (2)
Race 7—Glory And Honour (3), Badge Of Honor (10), California Lady (7), Floral Arch (2), Sustained/Danseuse (4)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Clear Stone (12), Seniority (4), Five O'Clock (6), El Love Señora (1), Virgin Island (7)
Race 9—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Fanciful/High Fashion (1), Gundam (10), Military Might/Twin Spires (9), Allysa's Choice/Do Re Mi (6), Sweet Luvin (4)
Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—Idol (3), Shaolin (7), Raven (6), Deity (1)
Race 11—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Ocean Cookie (1), Don Ramon (9), Words Of Joy (8), Take A Strike (6), Binukalan's Pride (5)
Race12—(Qrt/Tri)—Hurry Prince (7), Cool Turner (6), Prickly Heat (2), Lovable Trisha (5)
Race 13—(Super6/Qrt/Tri)—Modern Classic (2), Daddy's Girl (6), Angel Eyes/Letshaveaparty (1), Yankee Clipper 97), Detective Daryll (4), Galaxy Wars (9)

Liang, Cua top wushu tilt

PETITE MAUREEN LIANG completed a golden double and Garry Cua also delivered to highlight the national wushu team's impressive performance in the just-concluded Second World Traditional Wushu Championships in Zheng Zhou, China.

Counting the gold medal by Lester Pimentel in the nanquan or the southern style Wednesday, the four-man Philippine team will bring home four golds, three silvers and a bronze to underscore the country's status as one of the world's leading practitioners of the sport.

"We prepared hard for this tournament but we did not expect to win four golds," said Pimentel. "This is great for wushu, I hope others will take this sport. In wushu, you don't need height, what you need is patience and perseverance."



RICA Bitara (left) and Gary Cua show off their medals. With them are team manager Ong Chiao Hing and Lester Pimentel.

Showing supreme confidence, Liang ruled the animal form by using the mantis style.

She also reigned supreme in the non-conventional weapon event to emerge as one of the most decorated athletes in the event that drew entries from 68 countries.

Non-conventional weapons include a fan, bench, curret, umbrella or any other thing that can be used as a weapon for self-defense.

Combining speed, power and grace, Cua topped the shaolin fist as he outshone even his seasoned Chinese rivals. But he settled for a silver in the non-conventional weapon.

Rica Bitara failed to win a gold but she consoled herself by winning two silvers, one in animal form. Her other silver came in the double broadsword. Pimentel settled for bronze in the non-conventional event.

Pecante stars for RP lifters

LILI PECANTE HOGGED THE SPOTLIGHT anew as Team Philippines bagged eight gold medals and broke 10 Asian records in the recent World Masters Powerlifting Championships in Killeen, Texas, USA.

The Filipinos also came home with one silver and eight bronze medals. Pecante repeated her sterling performance last year, winning four golds in the 8.2-kilogram Masters I class. She lifted 418 pounds in the squat position, 259 in bench press, 446 in deadlift and totaled 1,124 pounds.

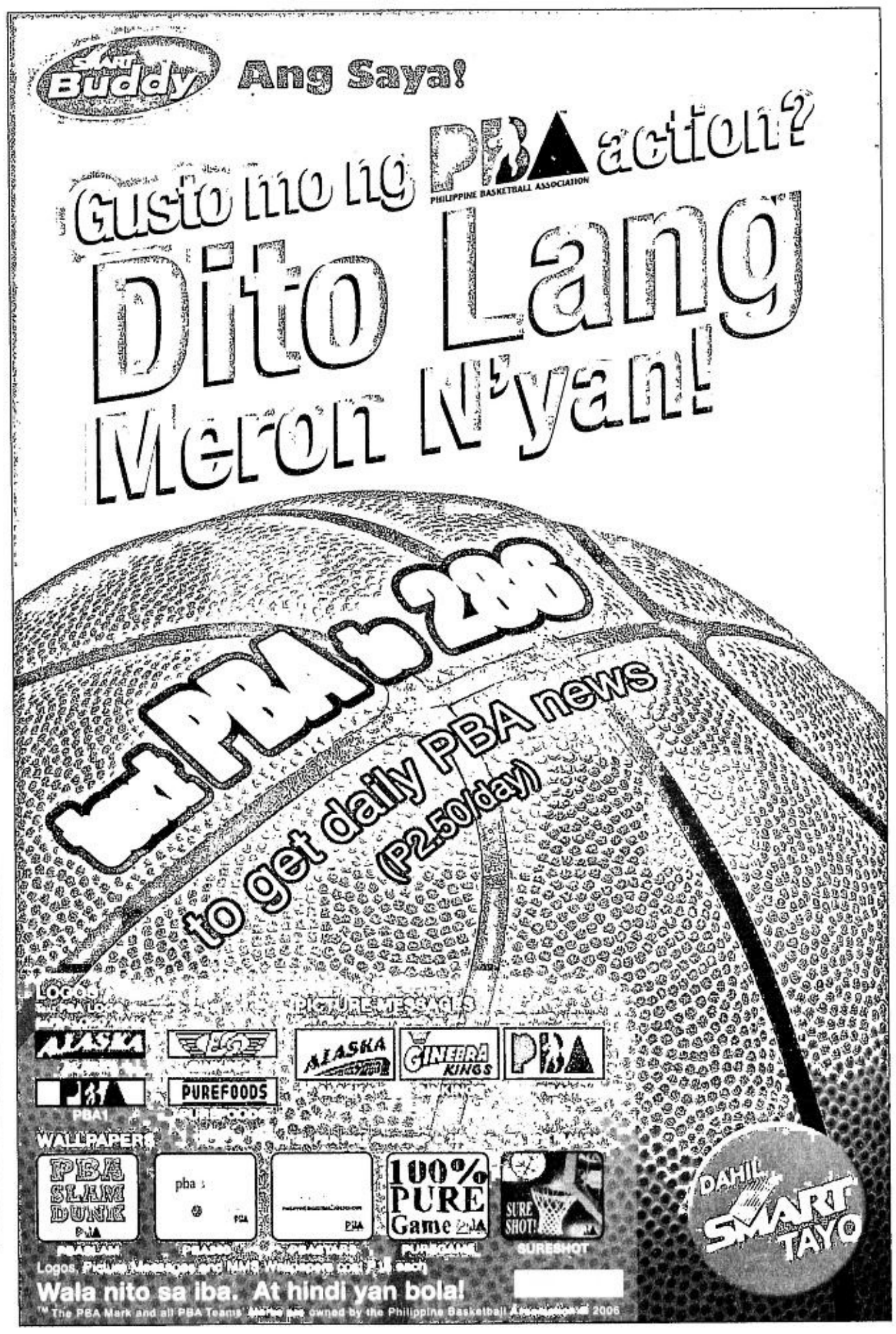
Pecante finished more than 200 ahead of her closest rivals, with her bench press, deadlift and total lifts surpassing Asian marks.

Rene Dio also copped two golds and one bronze, while Nina Oca won one gold and three bronze medals, Eddie Tomas also took one gold and Elvira Lorenzo had a silver in her first international outing.

Dio lifted 578 pounds in squat of the 82.5 masters II class, in the process setting new Asian Masters I and II standards. He also totaled 1,510 pounds to clinch another gold and break Asian I and II records. Dio's 567-pound deadlift was also a new Asian masters II mark but he had to settle for bronze.

Oca lifted 143 pounds in bench press to win the 52 kg masters II gold and deadlift for a total of 644 pounds to earn three bronzes.

Torres won his golds in deadlift with 661 pounds, while Lorenzo set a new Asian deadlift mark by lifting 292 pounds in the 52-kg Masters I class. She also benched 126 pounds and totaled 639 pounds for a couple of bronzes.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

Website: www.inq7money.net

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

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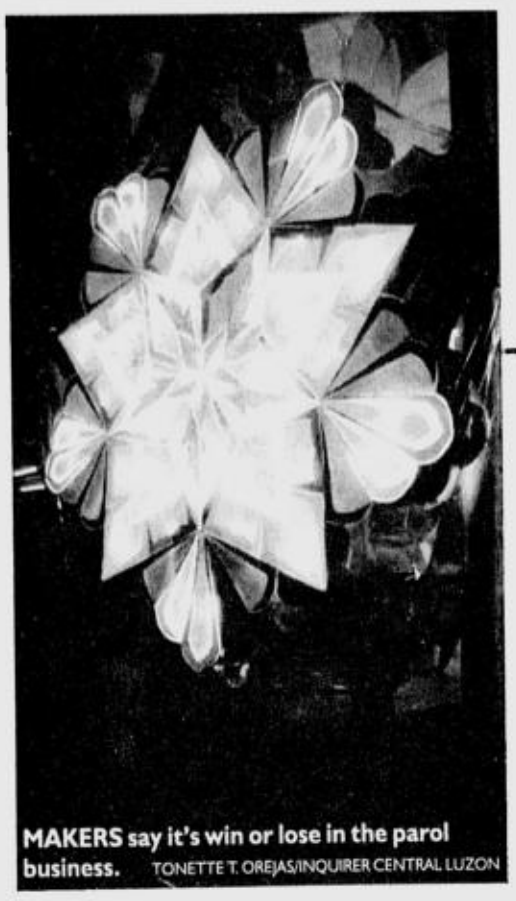


MAKERS say it's win or lose in the parol business. TONETTE T. OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Gems light up rare *Christmas lanterns*

RP to unveil rare designs in San Francisco

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Lanterns in this capital city of Pampanga just keep getting better and aiming for international appeal.

For the first time, a limited set of 12 lanterns is designed with gems, care of artist and fashion designer Marisse "Marigonz" Gonzales.

Called the "fourth generation lanterns," these would be unveiled by Gonzales and Mayor Oscar Rodriguez at the Westin St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco, California, for the Oct. 21 gala of the centennial of Filipino migration to the United States, the mayor tells the INQUIRER.

The rare pieces, also called "Celes-

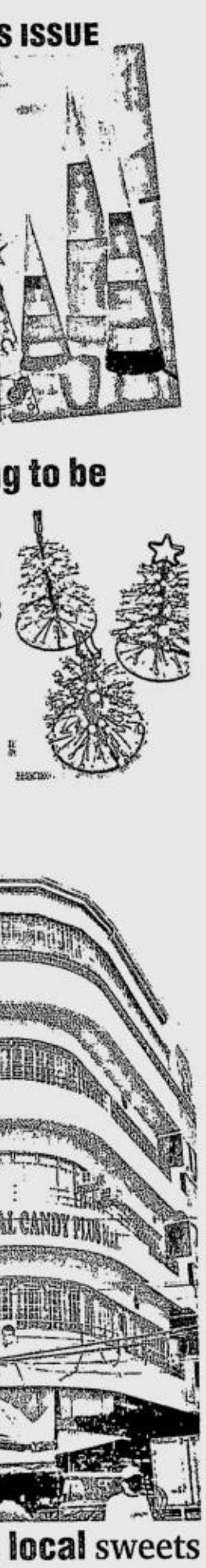
GEMS/ B4

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **It's going to be** a black and white Christmas /B2

■ **Selling local** sweets for 50 years /B8

■ **Pastillas makers** fight to survive dying industry /B8



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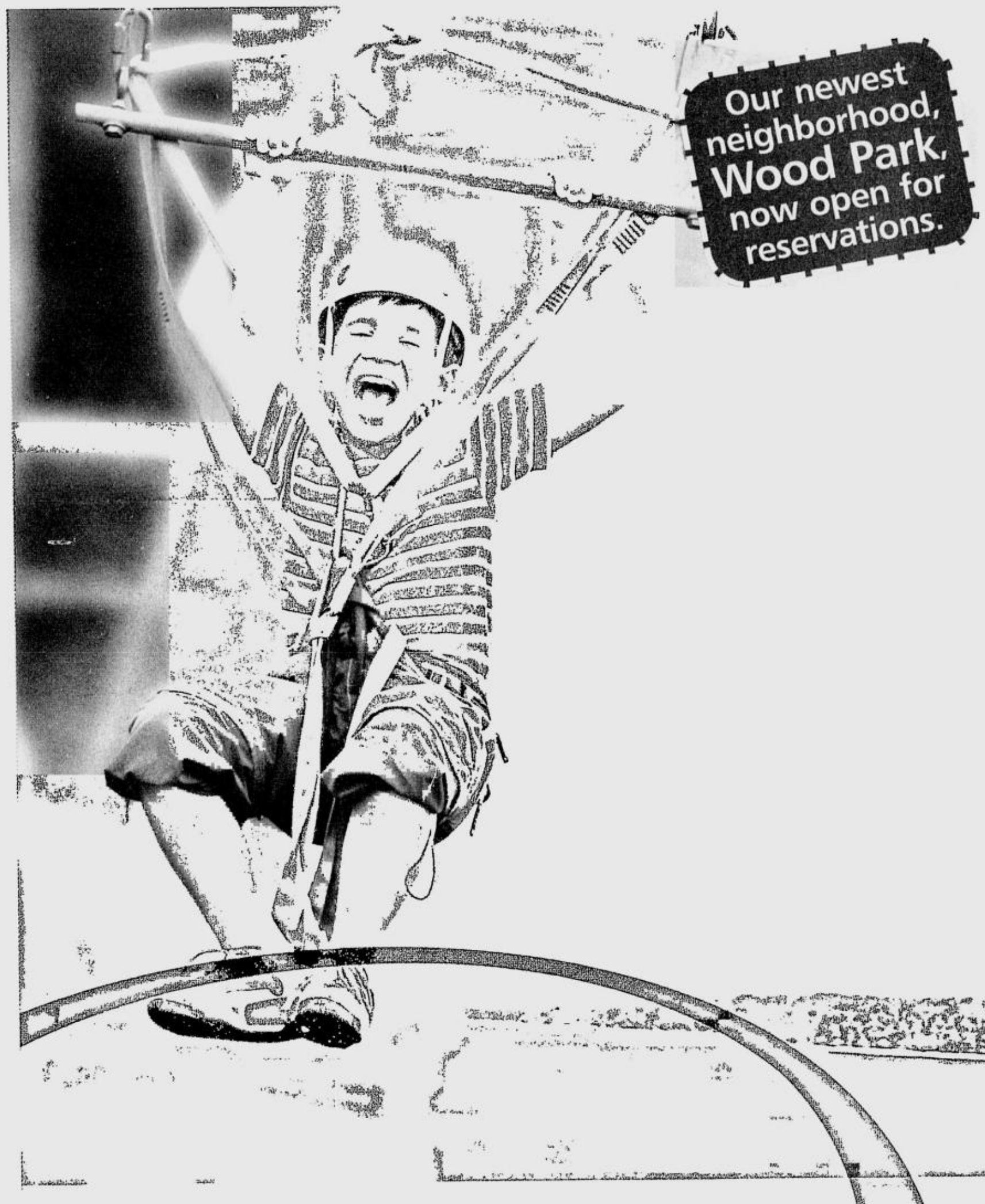

My son could not stop talking about the rush – he plans to make this his regular weekend sport. It gives new meaning to "frequent flier."

Some come here to seek tranquil spaces. While some come for an adrenalin boost. Located only 20 minutes away from the Subic Bay Freeport, Anvaya Cove has something for everyone in the family: from nature trails, to water sports, to arts and crafts at the clubhouse and sport facilities for the slightly more daring!

Anvaya Cove is a seaside leisure community developed by Ayala Land Premier in Morong, Bataan. In the heart of this community is an exclusive Beach & Nature Club, designed for a variety of unique experiences that the whole family can share

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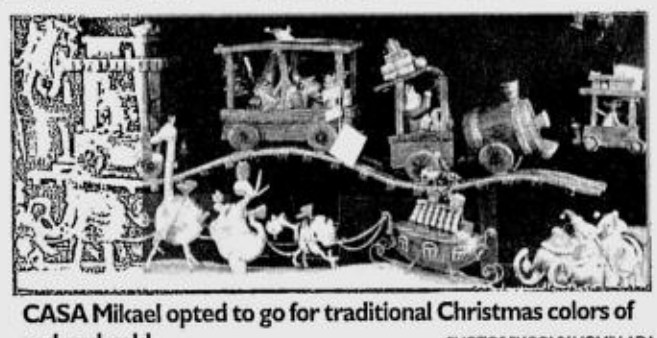
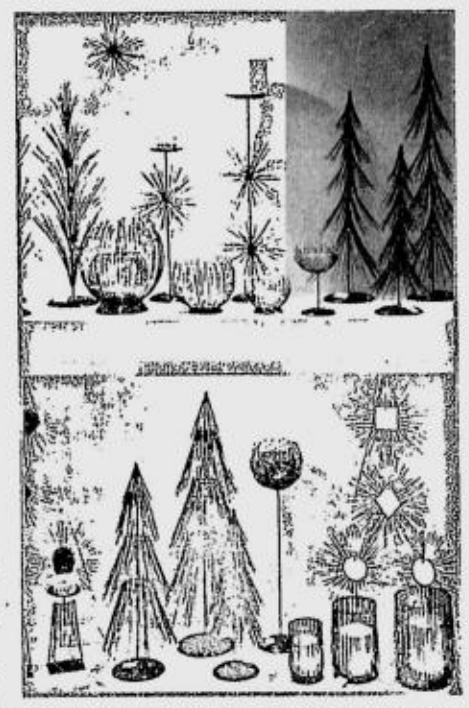
It's going to be an ebony and ivory Christmas

Filipino exporters fill their trade booths with black and white decors



CASA Mikael opted to go for traditional Christmas colors of red and gold. PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA



CELEBRATIONS' black and white decors are making waves in Japan and Europe.

By Amy R. Remo

BLACK AND WHITE ARE THE NEW colors of Christmas.

Or so it is for the Japanese and European buyers and for some of the braver exporters of the Christmas decor cluster at the recently concluded Manila FAME International.

Dubbed as Asia's Best Design Destination, Manila FAME is the longest running trade show of its kind in Asia Pacific. It is organized by the Department of Trade and Industry's export promotion arm, the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem).

For 23 years, the bi-annual event has unveiled Philippine-made home furnishings, gifts, houseware, holiday decor and fashion accessories to international audience.

The FAME exhibit in April 2006 raked in $51 million. The 2005 editions meanwhile, generated combined sales of about $127 million, contributing 15 percent to the country's total exports.

Though black is considered the color for mourning or may connote anything that's negative, black may also be used to convey elegance and sophistication.

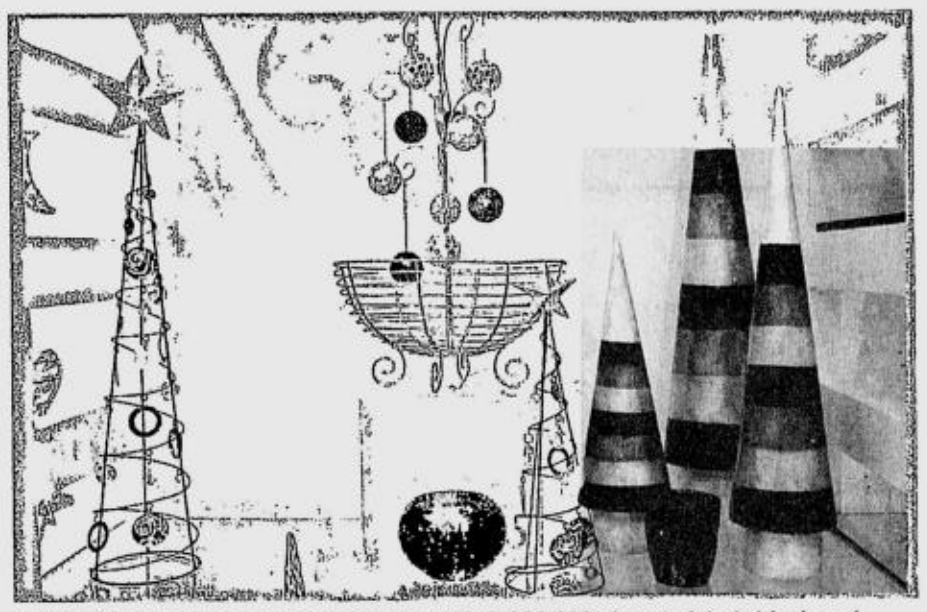
Four exhibitors shared with the INQUIRER their views on this year's Christmas decor "trends."

Celebrations Trading Int'l

"Black and white Christmas decors are definitely making a statement this year," says Nini P. Ledesma, general manager of Celebrations Trading International.

Based in Muntinlupa City, Celebrations has been exporting Christmas decorations, ornaments, home decor, storage boxes, frames, lamps, lighting ornaments and votives since 1998. Most of its products are made of tin, wire and capiz.

"Based on last fair's [April 2006] feedback from our buyers and designers, black and white decors are in," says Ledesma. "A lot of our buyers ordered the black and white sets."



GALLERIA Crafts has already sold more than 100,000 pieces of their black and white Christmas decors to Spain alone.

Odd as it may seem, these black and white decors are making huge waves, particularly in the Japan and European markets.

While the designs are uniquely theirs, Ledesma adds that they usually base some decisions such as the colors to use, on magazines, lifestyle websites and merchandise briefings.

Celebrations is also experimenting on the color "chalk" for its Christmas decors.

Aromaphil Industries Inc.

Aromaphil's collection of black and white Christmas decors is selling like hotcakes among its top clients in Australia, Japan, Italy and Dubai.

Design consultant Leo Plocius tells the INQUIRER that these black and white Christmas ornaments are Aromaphil's best sellers to date.

AROMAPHIL'S black and white sets are selling like hotcakes as well.

"We have already sold 6,000 sets of the Christmas balls (about eight balls per set) and around 3,000 sets of the Christmas cones (3 per set)," says Plocius. "Our clients in US, Japan and Dubai, in particular, like these black and white ornaments."

Plocius says the decision to focus on the black and white Christmas ornaments was based on the demands of Aromaphil's customers. "Plus, the black-and-white Christmas color scheme is now a trend."

An exporter since 1998, Aromaphil's products include Christmas and home decors, curly ting, floral accents, rolls and ribbons, rafia and storage boxes. These are all made of plastic, abaca fiber, raffia fiber, buri, coconut and dried parts of plants.

Parañaque-based Aromaphil exports regularly at an average of eight containers a month which ranges from $8,000 to $35,000 per container, depending on the products.

Galleria Crafts

Worry was Galleria Crafts' initial reaction to the black-and-white trend for Christmas decors.

"That's why in the FAME fair last April 2006, we still highlighted our usual Christmas decors of red and gold," explains Ginger Grupe-Acevedo, Galleria's marketing director. "Although we made some black and white sets for our Christmas decors, we put them at the back of our booth."

Acevedo admits, however, that their research showed that there is a growing trend for black and white decors. Magazines and lifestyle websites likewise say the same thing.

"Europe, in terms of color trends, is ahead of us so we usually follow their suit," says Acevedo. Designs, however, are made through the collaborative efforts of the whole Galleria team.

And it was surprising, according to Acevedo, because they got more inquiries and bookings with their black and white Christmas ornaments during the last FAME fair.

Galleria has sold more than 100,000 pieces of their black and white Christmas decors to Spain alone. It also exports table top Christmas ornaments and storage boxes in other parts of Europe, US, Australia and Japan.

Casa Mikael International

While a lot of exporters dared to venture into the black-and-white color scheme for Christmas decors, Casa Mikael International chose to stick it out with the good, old traditional red, gold and green Christmas decors.

"It's Christmas. You don't use black for Christmas," says Bonno de Vera, marketing specialist of Casa Mikael.

Started in 1996, Antipolo-based Casa Mikael was initially a supplier to local department stores.

Owner Rubby S. Coyiuto later decided to export resin-based Christmas ornaments and table top decors, each of which averages not more than $3 a piece.

To date, Casa Mikael ships an average of about 20 containers a month to US, Europe, New Zealand and Australia.

"Even if we decided to pursue the traditional Christmas decors, we still have an edge quality-wise," says De Vera. "Our decors boast of intricate designs. Aside from the usual satin and glossy finishes, we also now have the 'foilized' finish."

Why can't I come home?

– Ninoy Aquino

Dare to ask.
Be an Inquirer.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Metrobank shares the vision of making it big with client-partners

In the mid-19th century, Divisoria was described as "the most important and opulent town in the Philippines and its true commercial capital." It was here, in the streets of this town, that a handful of banking visionaries established the first branch of Metrobank.

They began on a strong foundation of trust and mutual support, which developed into a partnership that endured through the years. Their common dedication to customer service and firm belief in the potentials of its clients is the guiding philosophy that made Metrobank a true leader in Philippine banking. Today, it has more than 8,000 employees, each one committed to providing the same personalized service to over 3 million clients here and abroad – the bank's trademark for the past forty-four years.

Metrobank pays tribute to its successful client-partnerships built over the years. The tribute showcases the diversity of its client base, featuring a number of clients, each a renowned success in their own fields.

Metrobank's tribute finds inspiration in the lives and successes of its clients – a fitting testament to the enduring spirit of the Filipino who has succeeded in the midst of a globally competitive business environment.

Holcim Philippines, Inc. is the leading cement exporter in the country. Lamoiyan Corporation makes mega brand Hapee toothpaste. Pancake House is a leader in the casual-dining segment. Celine Marketing Corporation is a leading shoe store chain. Cherry Foodarama is one of the most enduring supermarkets in the country.

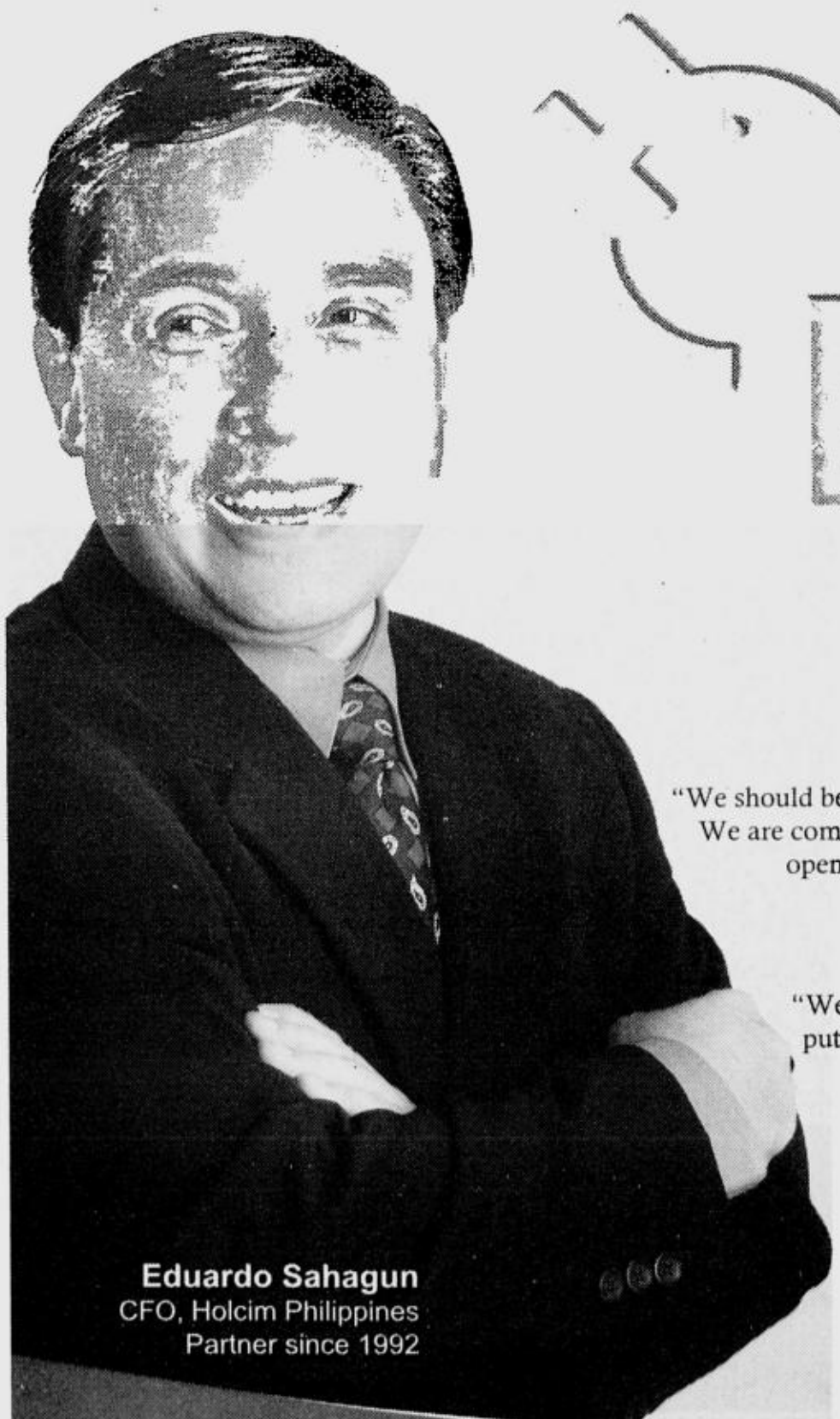
Each of these clients shares a passion for excellence and the vision to make it big in their own way. "We should be able to contribute to the Philippines in a broader sense," said Eduardo Sahagun, Chief Finance Officer of Holcim. Each one has a story worth emulating – an inspiring account of how a truly innovative vision allows one to conquer adversity. "I came from an average family. My passion was to be a successful businessman," reveals Cecilio Pedro, President and CEO of Lamoiyan Corporation.

In partnership with a strong financial institution, a business endeavor can attain the heights of its true potential. "I always felt Metrobank was there in case we needed funding to expand. I want to continue building my brands – Pancake House, Teriyaki Boy, and Dencio's prudently," states Martin Lorenzo, CEO of Pancake House.

"Metrobank's support through hard times and good times was impressive," said Chan Kok Bin, President of Celine Marketing Corporation who runs the Celine store chain with the help of his wife and their daughter Mitzi Joy Chan-Tan.

Sharing the secrets of their success, Mr. and Mrs. Chan Man Bun, owners of Cherry Foodarama disclose, "Trust among partners is important because jointly we could accomplish more and serve the community better."

Metrobank proudly shares the vision and success of its client-partners. Since that first branch in Divisoria, this has always been and continues to be Metrobank's commitment to all its clients both small and large. With Metrobank beside you, imagine the kind of partnership that can take you where you want to be.



Eduardo Sahagun
CFO, Holcim Philippines
Partner since 1992

THE LOFTIEST TOWERS FIND STRENGTH IN DEEP FOUNDATIONS.

Holcim

"We are the number one cement exporter in the Philippines. We exported 1.7 million tons last year, 50 million dollars."

It takes financial stability to stay at the top. In 2002, Holcim catapulted the company to one of the leading cement manufacturers in the Philippines. Mr. Eduardo Sahagun helps Holcim to reach a higher level of leadership, taking responsibility for the environment and the people that surround it.

"We should be able to contribute to the Philippines in a broader sense by approaching business responsibly. We are committed to building sustainable lives in partnership with our stakeholders, keeping the window open to opportunities and making sure that there will always be enough for tomorrow's children."

Holcim stands steadfast at its current position. With Metrobank at its side through decades of constant expansion and growth, Holcim looks forward to going beyond what it has already achieved as the leader in their field.

"We have been in this industry for almost 50 years now. During the 90's we went into expansion putting up a million tons every year. Now we're exporting to other countries. Metrobank is very supportive. They gave us the financial strength that helped us through our expansion."

Metrobank shares the vision of Holcim and Mr. Eduardo Sahagun.

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He earns money from food he shouldn't eat

Thirty-something turns tragedy into an opportunity

By Senen Bravo

REYMONT CHOACHUY, 31, DID NOT mind eating street foods. Until diarrhea struck him.

"The doctor found amoebiasis, advised a three-day bed rest and discouraged me from eating squid balls and kikiam peddled on the street," says Choachuy.

Instead of turning his back on street food and discouraging people from eating them, he embraced it by setting up his own street food business. But this time ensuring that no one will get sick from eating it.

With P150,000, Choachuy put up Sam's Everything On Sticks at the Tutuban Center Mall in Divisoria in 2001. His cart sold kikiam, squid ball, siomai, lumpiang shanghai, chicken ball and hotdog, practicing strict sanitation standards.

Today, Sam's has 50 franchisees nationwide, carrying 26 food stuffs.

"Everything is on sticks because we have seen how bananas and barbecues became standouts on them," says Choachuy.

He chose Divisoria because of its steady foot traffic, Choachuy says.

Thanks to the concoctions of his food technologist, Sam's continues to innovate.

"She even made a sauce that can last for six months," says Chua.

Sam's shuns monosodium glutamate in food preparation and favors stainless barbecue grills.

"Monosodium glutamate can damage your health; maybe not now but later on the consequences could be fatal. As for sooted grills the effects are the same," says Chua.

The Chinese-Filipino entrepreneur has had his share of challenges. He suffered losses from products that dried up and could no longer be sold; and lost P22,000 to a cashier because of his leniency and lack of system.

Food handling and storage fall on the shoulders of his operations officer who makes regular branch visits at malls across the country.

"Each cart has a canopy, ceiling, menu board, two compartments, *gulaman* dispenser, and a sauce holder," says Choachuy.

Choachuy logs 14-15 hours of work a day, looking out for pilfering or inventory tampering. Crushable cups are also used to discourage their reuse.

Choachuy says Filipinos, especially professionals bound for home, are willing to spend around P20-P40 on these delicacies.

"Food cart business has been with us for 10-15 years. The advantage of squid ball over *ensaymada* is that the former is served hot," says Choachuy.

After three years, Sam's went into franchising. The first franchisee was a La Salle student who met Choachuy in a trade fair. Franchisees from the Visayas and Mindanao followed.

"She wanted a spot at Harrison Plaza and asked a lot of questions about how to get started," says Choachuy.

Franchise fee is P150,000 for five years, renewable with a payback period of 8 to 14 months.

Sam's needs no heavy advertising since it thrives on word of mouth.

"Our carts, array of foods and sanitation standards are themselves marketing tools," says Choachuy.

Franchisees can also avail of Sam's one-year cart warranty, including on-site warranty and a 48-hour money back guarantee.

"Within 48 hours, our crew would come to your doorsteps and fix the problem," says Choachuy.

Sam's continues to innovate and offer varieties like Dino's Footlong-Hotdog-Fries, Itlog On Sticks, Banana On Sticks and Barbecue On Sticks.

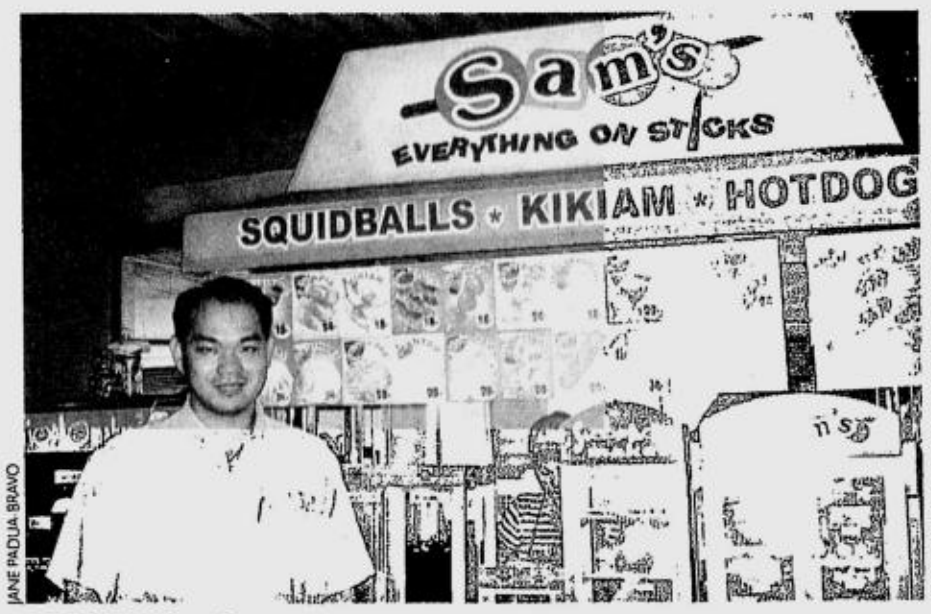
"Dino's offers hotdogs with French fries, Itlog On Sticks standardizes flour coating and egg coloring, Banana On Sticks comes up with strawberry and caramel dips, and Barbecue On Sticks boasts stuff cooked on a stainless steel grill with gas burners running on independent control knobs," says Choachuy.

Sam's also dishes out *siopaos* with flavors like *ube*, *buko pandan*, yellow mongo, pizza and tuna, he adds.

Choachuy, an Industrial Engineering graduate, has been on his own since arriving in Manila from Cebu.

"I decided to wean away from my parents when I went to Manila for my college

HE EARNS/ B5



JANE PADUA BRAVO

REYMONT Choachuy

Gems light up rare Christmas lanterns

From page B1

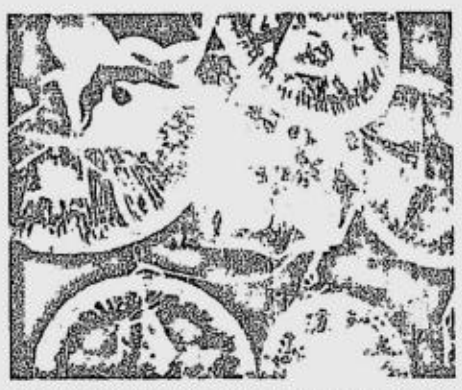
tial Lanterns," are the latest evolution of the Christmas craft.

The first generation pieces are made of papel de japon (Japanese paper), lighted by oil or candles. These illuminated the religious processions in Bacolor town, from which this city was carved 100 years ago.

The second generation consisted of electric-powered pieces, made possible with the operations of the San Fernando Electric and Power Co. in the 1930s.

While the first creations took the size of a *batya* (wash bin), the second generation lanterns evolved into giant versions after World War II. That occasion became the precursor of what is now the annual "Ligligan Parul" (Giant Lantern Festival).

The small lanterns let out colors and lights through a Taiwan-made blinker but the giant pieces give out an illusion of dancing lights care of an ingenious, manually operated contraption called the rotor.



CHRISTMAS lanterns are for sale now in San Fernando, Pampanga.

The third generation lanterns are made of capiz or flattened sea shells put together in the shape of the "Star of Bethlehem."

The creations of Gonzales, an exclusive designer for the Celestial Jewelry, "symbolize Filipino character."

Her e-mail to Rodriguez said the lantern designs are themed as "Pakikipagsapalaran" (Journey of Hope), "Pilipinas Kong Mahal" (Philippines My Beloved), "Mapag-arugang Perlas ng Silanganan" (Nurturing Pearl of the Orient), "Bituing Mapagmahal" (My Loving Star), "Patnubay" (Guidance), "Paniniwala" (Believing/Faith), "Pagtitiwala" (Trust), "Matayog ang Lipad" (Fly High or Soaring), "Nagniningning" (Shining Through), "Paghinga" (Breath), and "Pagdiriwang" (Celebration).

The lanterns are of various sizes, some six feet tall and three feet in width.

The Philippine flag, Gonzales said, inspired her.

"I used rubies for courage and bravery that Filipinos are known for. [There is] blue sapphire, symbolizing the ocean surrounding our beautiful islands and which brings tranquility to our people, and diamond, representing our country's leaders, businessmen, and hardworking Filipinos who give hope and brilliance to our land," she said.

Gonzales says she also used pearl, which symbolizes the country's national gem, the South Sea Pearl, and gold, to symbolize solidarity and strength for "our beloved nation and our people."

After the centennial gala, the Filipino-American community in San Francisco will launch a lantern festival at the Yerba Buena Gardens Mission Street, also in San Francisco.

Rodriguez said the events are sponsored by the Pilipino American Development Foundation and Philippine Consul General Rowena Sanchez.

The works of Gonzales and the products of several craftsmen in San Fernando are set for exhibition in Daly City, Vallejo and Los Angeles.

Rodriguez hoped that the events would open more markets for the San Fernando lanterns. The city government recently won as model in the Department of Trade and Industry's "One Town One Product" program in Central Luzon.

Emily Sy, owner of the Emari LLC, which has supported Gonzales' project, said the 12 Celestial Lanterns would be exhibited and marketed in the Philippines next year, with the launching set at the Coconut Palace in Manila.

Why not the world?

– Iea Salonga

Dare to ask.
Be an Inquirer.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Growing from the ground up

TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF the future and preserve the environment, the food industry is taking steps to promote change from the ground up through the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform.

SAI was created by the food industry worldwide led by Nestle, Danone and Unilever to support the development of sustainable agriculture. The platform hopes to guarantee food for a growing population through efficient use of resources.

On Nov. 16, 2006, the First Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform Philippine Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila.

With proper implementation, sustainable agriculture has the potential to improve the quality of life of people through attainable goals which produce profit while promoting wise stewardship of resources.

The SAI platform aims to improve the quality, safety and nutritional value of agricultural products by producing goods with balanced nutritional content, ensuring safety of these from the farm and minimizing the risks of pesticide residues.

SAI's goal is to build attractive farming livelihoods and adaptive rural communities that will empower them and increase their self-reliance.

The platform addresses issues on the optimal use of resources and how best to minimize the impact of agricultural activities on the environment.

Soil should be protected against the improper use of fertilizers and pesticides which can lead to soil pollution and loss of arable land.

The SAI platform also tackles issues on biodiversity, crop health and animal welfare.

Patrick Leheup of SAI Europe is slated to discuss the benefits of SAI, in addition to global trends and practices. Leheup will share the worldwide success stories of the SAI Platform and provide advice on how to organize a local group.

The day-long event will allow leaders of food companies to share their insights and concerns about sustainable agriculture in an open forum with members of the government and the academe. The SAI Platform hopes to spark a move towards progress and growth.

There will also be a presentation of a case study on coffee partner crops to serve as an example of how a sustainable agriculture program might induce more people to invest their land, money and effort into a lucrative and financially viable venture.

To access the SAI platform and their database of sustainable agricultural practices, check out its website at www.saiplatform.org

For questions on the First SAI Platform Philippine Convention, call (062) 687-2649 or (062) 687-2692.

He earns money from...

From page B4

education. I had with me their advice on business; not their financial assistance," says Choachuy.

This year, he intends to add team-building seminars to the employee and rookie of the month awards of the company.

"My employees are the backbone of the business and I ought to reward them," says Choachuy.

Choachuy is also lining up his Fishers of Men program which intends to provide livelihood training and capital.

Selling local sweets for 50 years

From page B8

KIDS nowadays may not have heard of some candies Royal Candy Mart still carries like the Texas bubble gum.

Commerce and Industry is saluting.

Chua Ma, an enterprising migrant from Amoy, China, arrived in the country in 1954 and landed a job as a bakery helper in San Pablo, Laguna.

Two years later, an adventurous compatriot cajoled Chua to try their luck in Lucena, then a burgeoning capital of a province enjoying the benefits brought by the booming coconut industry.

The two put up the Royal Store, occupying a modest space in a former rice mill in the public market.

The store sold "sitsaron" that Chua personally made, along with assorted candies both locally-produced as well as those manufactured by Manila-based companies.

But only after a year, Chua's associate decided to terminate the partnership.

Drawing lots

To resolve who would have the right to continue the business, the partners decided to draw lots.

"Luckily, my father won. He paid off the shares of his partner and continued running the candy store with more perseverance and hard work," Chua's eldest son Zaldy recalls.

In 1958, Chua married Urbana Ballesteros, who helped him steer the candy store—displaying the same acumen of her husband in the retail business.

"Aside from my father's 'sitsaron,' our parents also filled the store shelves with other locally made candies like sweet tamarind, *champoy*, *ube* and *langka* candies. They opened the store to local entrepreneurs, providing them outlets for their home-made products," Zaldy proudly notes.

As the store gained regular customers, the couple hired two helpers to assist them.

Focus on studies

"My parents never bothered to ask for our help in the store. They wanted us to focus on our studies," says Zaldy, 48, a management and industrial engineering graduate from the Mapua Institute of Technology.

But the whole store was burned in 1965 during the biggest fire in the history of Lucena, which wiped out the whole central part of the city and turned most of the local businesses down to their knees.

"My father and I were in Hong Kong when the fire happened. I was seven years old. He was paying his relatives a visit. We rushed back and found almost the whole city razed to the ground. For three months, we sought shelter in different houses of my parent's friends. It was distressing but my father struggled back," Zaldy remembers those trying moments.

"Actually, it was already the second fire which my father experienced in his candy store. The first was when he was still singly running his business in its initial period," he adds.

With a measly P5,000 that Chua received from an insurance firm as an indemnification, the entrepreneur resurrected the candy store on the same site.

"Because he was able to maintain a good business record, especially when it comes to financial obligations, all his suppliers readily offered all the support that he needed to recover," Zaldy says.

When Chua died in 1987, he left a solid business to his 10 children—all of them professionals who now have their own respective businesses.

His son Filiberto, 42, an accounting graduate, serves as the operations manager of the business.

"Before the retirement of our father from running the store operation in 1977, we started training ourselves in the different aspects of the business. So in a way, we were ready for the task," Filiberto says.

However, Urbana still exerts significant influence, especially in the company finances.

"Although, we already have our respective businesses, we're still committed to support and maintain Royal as the number one candy store in Lucena," Zaldy stresses.

In 1989, Royal bought a commercial lot along Claro M. Recto Street, also in the vicinity of the public market, which later on became the new site of the store.

Upon relocation, Royal Candy Store changed its business name to Royal Candy Center.

In 2002, the candy store metamorphosed into Royal Candy Plus Mart, an imposing five-story building in the corner of Claro M. Recto and Magallanes streets, adjacent to its former location.

It now employs more than 40 employees.

Zaldy boasts that despite the flood of imported candies in the market, notably from China, their store remains focused on providing outlets for Philippine-made products.

"We also carry imported items but we continue to prefer local candies because they are products of fellow Filipinos. Our suppliers are still the same. We value the old and tested partnership," he says.

The store continues to sell old candy brands which reminisces innocent childhood like Texas bubble gums, White Rabbit, Coffee Caramel, Choc Nut, "kending limon," sweet tamarind and the still ubiquitous flour-based "sitsaron" now in round shapes.

"But we no longer make 'sitsaron.' Our father did not share us his secret even when we were egging him. He reasoned out that we already had a solid business to maintain so there was no more reason for us to make 'sitsaron,'" Zaldy remembers Chua's words.

With its inspiring display of excellent business acumen and determination to succeed, remarkable business ethics, observance of values-based culture in the trade and enormous contribution in the community through leadership in the industry, the PCCI Inc., through its provincial chapter, honored Chua's legacy in the local business community.

During the 15th South Luzon Area Business Conference (SOLABC'06) held in this city last July, Royal Candy Plus Mart was one of the recipients of the SOLABC '06 Awards for Business Excellence for the "Golden Business Award" category in recognition of its unblemished track record in business for the past 50 years.

PANCAKE HOUSE
Since 1974

IT IS DESIRE THAT MAKES FORTUNE SO SWEET.

"I enjoyed eating at Pancake House, so I thought the money would be good. I basically took out all the savings I had and acquired the business."

Martin Lorenzo's personal craving turned to personal success when he bought the company in 2000, restructuring and expanding it from 15 to 62 branches all over the country.

"Everytime I look at something, I figure out how one can make more from this."

Since his success with Pancake House, Mr. Lorenzo has acquired Dencio's and Teriyaki Boy and is rapidly growing these 3 brands with the vision of building more casual dine-in outlets in the coming years.

"Metrobank's service is very consistent. For me, it's very important that my bank understands my business. Sharing a sustainable relationship with my financial partner is also important. It's a win-win situation for both of us. We have confidence in the bank, with the management of the bank, with the owners of the bank."

This trust brought about a lucrative partnership that saw the business flourish, with limitless potential for growth.

"I want to own and dominate the fast casual dining segment. I want to have multiple brands that are in that category."

Metrobank shares the vision of Pancake House and Mr. Martin Lorenzo.

As the country's leading financial institution,
A network of over 800 domestic and international offices, subsidiaries and affiliates worldwide,
Personal service, and a complete range of products that fit any banking need,
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CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT

150 YEARS

OCTOBER 2006

CFM Celebrates 50 Years in the Service of the Filipino Family

From the onset, we are taught of the concept that the family is the basic unit of society; that even if it is society's smallest institution, the family is the most vital unit, the building block, out of which all other institutions are made.

Perhaps for some, the phrase has been overused that it has already become cliche. But evidence shows what profound influence the family has that affects the individual's functioning outside the household. Like a house built on poor materials that crumbles on the slightest storm, so too is an individual not properly nurtured, physically and spiritually, who easily falls apart at the smallest crisis.

Thus the purpose for which the Christian Family Movement was started. CFM is a family support system that develops Christ-centered families. There are thousands of families all over the world today who are attempting to live a family-style spirituality in a highly practical way. A typical CFM unit is composed of six to eight families, with the adults meeting two evenings a month in each other's homes. Through the dynamics of group interaction, Christian values are strengthened and families reach out in action to others.

In 1952, spouses Tony and Teresa Nieva met Pat and Patty Crowley, one of the founders and national head of CFM in the United States. The friendship grew through letters with the American couple visiting Manila in 1956 to spread the movement and Tony and Teresa Nieva being elected the first President-couple. The first CFM office was a desk space at the rectory of the St. Ignatius Chapel in Camp Murphy with Prudi Regis working as part-time secretary.

CFM and the Filipino Family

As the country's first lay organization to include the entire family as members, CFM spearheaded projects and campaigns that are pro-family. Among its services are mass weddings, marriage encounters, Lenten and Advent retreats and recollections, seminars, training and workshops in counseling, and creating credit unions, scholarships and other livelihood projects. CFMers also staunchly participated in social and political issues, working for anti-pornography and anti-smut campaigns and lobbying against anti-life, anti-marriage, and anti-family bills. In 1983, after the assassination of Senator Ninoy Aquino, a CFM unit initiated the advocacy for clean elections leading to the organization of the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel). CFM has also explored the power of media in spreading its mission through print: National Artist for Literature NVM Gonzales and his wife Narita were the editors of the first issue of CFM News in March 1959; books: the Advocacy for Stronger Families (December 26, 1997) and Jubilee 2000, Special Time of Grace and Renewal (2000); and broadcast: the 30-minute evening television program CFM Family Hour on Channel 13 (July 22, 1964) conducted for 30 weeks and which was later modified as TV Family Guidance Hour. On June 11, 2000, CFM launched the radio program "Ala-Una Ang Pamilya" over Radio Veritas with CFMers Tony and Tita Kosca, and Pip and Wilma Cua as regular hosts. The program still airs from 1 - 2 pm every Sunday.

At present it has 4,000 member families spread among 15 ecclesiastical provinces.

CFM Philippines turns 50

CFM marks its 50th anniversary this year with a two-day celebration to be held in the GSIS Auditorium on October 21 and 22, and at the Fiesta Pavilion of the historic Manila Hotel on the evening of October 21. The theme for the celebration is "CFM: Celebrating 50 Years in the Service of the Filipino Family".

A Eucharistic celebration to be officiated by Bishop Angel Lagdameo opens the celebration which will be highlighted with the candle-lighting ceremony symbolizing CFM's golden jubilee, a video presentation on its accomplishments and future challenges, and seminar workshops to be participated in by special guests, speakers, CFM elders and members, priests and nuns from different parts of the country. Later at night, at Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavilion, will be a showcase of the culture and the heritage of the members from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

As CFM commemorates its 50th year in the Philippines, it continues to be in the forefront of Family Life Programs and evangelization. Rising to the challenges that threaten the foundation of families, it is perpetually committed in nurturing the spirit and transforming people to be witnesses to Christ in the world.

MILESTONES

- **February 8, 1956** - Pat & Patty Crowley's visit in Manila to promote CFM with the help of Tony & Teresa Nieva
- **September 1956** - The First unit formed by Tony & Teresa Nieva in June 1956 officially organized.
- **July 4, 1957** - CFM Federation was organized in the Archiocese of Manila. Elected President-couple: Tony & Teresa Nieva.
- **1958-59** - First provincial units formed in Cebu; Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Legaspi; and Bacolod.
- **1959** - First CFM office at the rectory of the St. Ignatius Chapel in Camp Murphy.
- **1959** - Development of Marriage Preparation Seminars (Pre-Cana Orientation Program)
- **1959** - Started Holy Week Retreat for Families in Camp Murphy, continued by Pasig Diocese to this day at the ULTRA.
- **1959** - Early 60's - Promotion of Social Action Programs; e.g. establishment of San Dionisio Cooperative & Credit Union in Paranaque and the Katiwala Primary Health Care Workers Program in Davao City.
- **1960** - Citizens League for Good Government organized in Quezon City, Makati, Pasay and other parts of the country.
- **Nov. 30, 1960** - Rufino Cardinal Santos granted mandate to CFM as a Catholic Action Organization in the Archdiocese of Manila.
- **1961** - CFM spearheading the movement for a more effective motion picture censorship law and inviting other civic, religious, social, professional, educational and cultural associations to form the Coordinating Council of National Organization for said purpose. (HB 6118 was passed and approved by both houses of Congress and the President of the Philippines.
- **1964** - The Coordinating Council of National Organization became the Citizens' Council for Better Motion Pictures, and later the Citizens' Council for Mass Media. It initiated the Citizens' Award of Merit (CAM) and later the Citizens' Award for Television.
- **1964** - CFM incorporated as an organization.
- **July 22, 1964** - CFM Weekly Family Hour on Channel 13, 7-7:30pm introduced. Panel discussion with 3 CFM couples on issues affecting family life conducted for 30 weeks. This was later modified to TV Family Guidance Hour headed by Louie & Yoli Javellana.
- **1966** - First Inquiry Program authored by Filipino writers: "The Christian Filipino Family after 400 years."
- **May 1967** - Introduction of Family Life Education Program for schools.
- **May 17, 1967** - CFM mandated as a national organization.
- **August 1969** - CFM Philippines became a member of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCM).
- **October 3-5, 1969** - Introduction of the Marriage Encounter (ME) Program of F. Gabriel Calvo in the Philippines by Sito & Sony Sison and Fr. Ruben Tanseco, SJ.
- **1972** - CFM prepared position paper against divorce.
- **February 14, 1973** - First Mini-Encounter that became known as the Tipanan held at St. Anne's House of Prayer in Sta. Ana, Manila under Fr. Ruben Tanseco, SJ, and Tom & Luring Indiongco.
- **February 18, 1973** - CFMer Joe & Annie Meily began Sunday column, "Husband & Wife Speak" in the Panorama magazine of the Bulletin Today.
- **August 6, 1976** - Establishment of the Marriage Encounter Foundation
- **November 25-27, 1977** - Hosting by CFM of the General Assembly of Families of ICCFM at Admiral Hotel, Roxas Boulevard. (One of the resolutions passed stipulated that ME authored by Fr. Gabriel Calvo is a "service of ICCFM and ...the ME manual cannot be reproduced in whole or in part nor the technique be changed without the Author's written permission.")
- **January 20-22, 1978** - First Sons & Daughters Encounter (SADE) held in Horsehoe Drive, Horseshoe Vilalge, Quezon City by Fr. Benjamin Carlos, SJ, Joe & Charito Hilario with SADE team.
- **1978** - OZANAM Award given to CFM for its outstanding acheivements in Social Action and in Family Life (usually given to individuals, for the first time given to an organization).
- **Feb. 23-25, 1979** - First Discovery Weekend held at Loyola House of Studies, Q.C.
- **1979** - Establishment of a Family Center for the Sacret Heart at the chapel of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice at U.P., Diliman.
- **1979** - Amendment of By-Laws changing CFM membership from "Couple" to "Family".
- **1980** - CFM identified its Mission & Charism
- **November 1981** - CFM published Training Manual for Facilitators of the Pre-Marriage (Pre-Cana) Program "With This Ring I Thee Wed".
- **May 8, 1983** - First Family Communications Workshop conducted by Fr. Gabriel Calvo and the Sison family.
- **August 1983** - Advocacy for clean elections initiated by a CFM Unit, which led to the organization of NAMFREL.
- **1983** - Approval of the amendment of the CFM By-Laws for the complete realignment of CFM Structure with the church hierarchy in all levels.
- **February 1986** - CFM full participation in NAMFREL in the Presidential Snap Election.
- **1987** - Began Lay Chaplaincy (Gabay) Program.
- **1987** - Adoption of the Basic Bible Sharing (BBS) process in the Scripture portion of the Family Evangelization guidebooks, starting with Unity & Renewal Book 1.
- **Feb. 23-25, 1990** - First Young Adults Program (YAP) held in Sacred HEart Novitiate, Novaliches under Fr. Benjamin Carlos, SJ.
- **January 1991** - Participation of CFM in the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (PCP II).
- **1991** - Donation by a generous CFM couple of a 457 sq.m. property in Quezon City on which the CFM Nazareth Home was built.
- **June 7, 1991** - Cornerstone laying of CFM Nazareth Home by Jaime Cardinal Sin.
- **Nov 12-14, 1991** - First FIRES Marriage Encounter, enriched and updated, held at Sacro Costato under Fr. Donnon Murray, OFM; Rene & Inday Pronstroller and Joe & Charito Hilario.
- **January 1992** - First FIRES Self-Encounter held at Pollock Hall in Ateneo, Quezon City by Fr. Donnon Murray.
- **Feb 19-21, 1993** - First FIRES Engaged Encounter at Sacro Costato Retreat House, Quezon City by Fr. Donnon Murray.
- **Feb 21-24, 1993** - First FIRES Priest Encounter at Mary's House of Prayer, Antipolo by Fr. Donnon Murray.
- **April 14, 1997** - First batch of family life ministers installed in Bacolod City, Comprised mostly of CFMers.
- **June 11, 2000** - Launching of ALA-UNA ANG PAMILYA" program over Radio Veritas, regularly hosted by Tony & Tita Kosca, Pip & Wilma Cua.
- **2001** - Introduced two new FLA programs: Parent-Child Interaction Program and Christian Family Life Appreciation Series in Pasig.
- **December 7, 2005** - CFM responded to the challenge of FALCON Luzon to organize a Pastoral Institute where Family & Life Workers may be sent for training. Msgr. Manuel Gabriel started orientation on Institute's syllabus. The institute was named Nazareth Institute of Family Formation.
- **Oct 21-22, 2006** - Golden Jubilee Celebration at the GSIS Auditorium and Manila Hotel.

Reunion at Nazareth Home with Founding President Teresa Nieva, & former presidents Mon Jimenez Sr; Mon & Glo Garcia & Freddie Ples. ▲

Some CFM pioneers and leaders at a reunion at Nazareth Home.

October 8, Motorcade in UP Diliman, Quezon City by UP CFMers of the Church of the Holy Sacrifice. ▼

Msgr. Manny Gabriel, CFM National Chaplain in an informal discussion with CFM Unit 6, Church of Holy Sacrifice, UP Diliman, Quezon City ▼

Pre-Cana in Bacolod

DAY 1 Programme

GSIS Auditorium Reclamation Area Manila City

- Workshop 1 & 2 Formation
  Humor Therapy, Neuro Linguistic Programming
- Workshop 3 CFM Pioneers
- Workshop 4
  Servant Leadership
- Workshop 5
  Youth (SADERS and Young Professionals)

7:00a.m. Registration
8:00a.m. Entrance of Colors / Area Banners
8:20 a.m. Eucharistic Celebration
His Excellency the Most Rev. Angel Lagdameo, D.D.
Archbishop of Jaro / CBCP President
9:20a.m. Morning Break
9:40a.m. Welcome Remarks
Joe & Zeny Capistrano - EVP Couple
Acknowledgement of Participants
Rolly & Betty Calingo
National Secretary Couple
10:00a.m. Candle Lighting Ceremony
Bert & Bie Singzon
Administrative Officer Couple / VP CFM Foundation
10:25a.m. CFM: The First 50 Years
Rolly & Josie Mesa
Immediate Past President Couple
10:45a.m. Introduction of Guest Speaker
Mel & Emma Ricafrente
President & Couple, Continental Asia, CFM / CFSM
10:50a.m. Inspirational Talk
Nop & Elma Muangkroot
President Couple, ICCFM
11:10a.m. CFM: Looking Beyond
Roger & Nora Panlasigui - President Couple
11:30 a.m. Opening of Exhibits
Nop & Elma Muangkroot / Mel & Emma Ricafrente
Roger & Nora Panlasigui
12:00 nn Lunch Break
OIC - Joey & Grace Marquez
AVP-Manila
1 :00 p.m. Group Workshops
3:00 p.m. Afternoon Break
3:15 p.m. Plenary Reports on Group Workshops
4:00 p.m. End of Session
OIC - Albert & Millete Hechanova (AVP-Luzon)
6:00 p.m. Registration
7:00 p.m. Dinner
Message:
Teresa Nieva (Founding President, CFM Philippines)
Awarding of Plaques of Appreciation/Recognition
Inspirational Talk
Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
Regional Presentations Ballroom Dancing
OIC - Pip & Wilma Cua
Secretary Couple, CFM Foundation

Cultural & Awards Night
Fiesta Pavilion at the Manila Hotel

Regional Presentations
Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, Manila, CFM Foundation

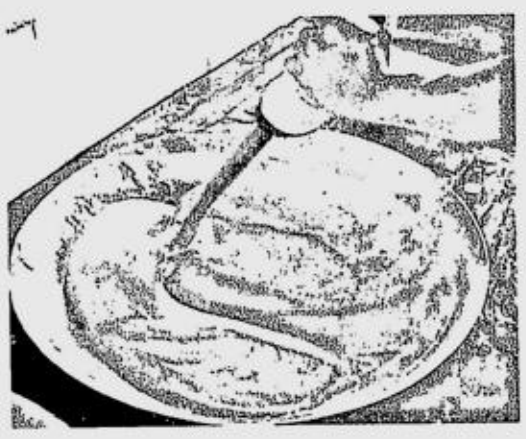
Day 2 Programme

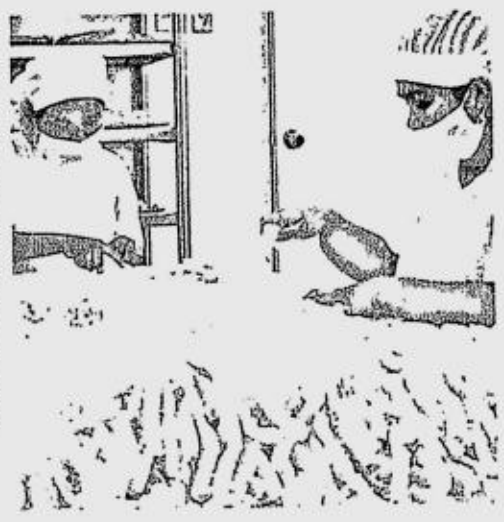
GSIS Auditorium Reclamation Area Manila City

8:30 a.m. Registration
9:30 a.m. Eucharistic Celebration
His Excellency the Most Rev. Antonio J. Ledesma, D.D.
Archbishop of Cagayan de Oro
10:30 a.m. Morning Break
11:00 a.m. Recap of Day 1 Activities
Joe & Zeny Capistrano (Executive Vice President)
11:30 a.m. Inspirational Message
Msgr. Manuel G. Gabriel (National Chaplain)
Awarding of Winners of Pre-Event Contests
12:00 nn Lunch Break
OIC - Ely & Baby Quisumbing (AVP-Visayas)
1:00 p.m. Closing Remark
Frank & Nini Ramos - President Couple, CFM Foundation
Exit of Colors
National Directorate Meeting CFM Bonding Tour
to Mall of Asia & Intramuros, etc.
OIC - Rodel & Badette Reyes (AVP-Mindanao)

CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
KILUSANG PAMILYANG KRISTIYANO NG PILIPINAS
CFM Nazareth Home, N. Domingo Avenue corner Hemady St., Horseshoe Village, Quezon City
Telephone Numbers 724-6747 / 412-2738 • E-mail: cfmphilonline.com • Website: http:/users.philonline.com/~cfmphils

ROYAL Philips Electronics recently feted its business partners and institutional alliances in the government that included Trade and Industry Secretary Peter B. Favila, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Board of Investments director Celeste Ilagas, Pilipinas Shell Corp. CEO Ed Chua, Globe-Innove CEO Gil Genio; business partners Wilson and Winston Lim of Abenson, Venu Kotamraju of Ace Foods, Severo de la Cruz of Emcor and Philips Philippines officials led by CEO Med Mateo and finance director Peter Akins.





MIXING THE soft and creamy carabao milk candy that has supported many families.

Pastillas makers vow ...

From page B8

businessmen" who do not have large capitals to spare.

But De la Cruz says small-scale entrepreneurs like her are grateful for the loan assistance from the Bulacan government through the provincial cooperative development office.

The BCCI, she says, also helps them by providing managerial training and seminar to professionalize their ventures.

This year, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) introduced machines to cut and wrap the pastillas. The DOST also offered entrepreneurs measuring cups to standardize the amount of ingredients used in the creation of their products.

But the innovation, De la Cruz says, means bad news for many local families who depend on the industry.

"It's probably good for us to have that machine... it would mean less people to employ. Maybe, if I get that machine, I would only need two workers instead of the 10 I'm employing. Probably, it's good for us [owners], but not for our workers who continue to depend on pastillas making for their livelihood," she says.

She also says their pastillas making does not depend on exact measurements.

"*Tantiyahan lang ang timpla ng pastillas* (We just estimate the amount of ingredients needed to produce pastillas)," she says.

CHANGE.
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UPGRADE.
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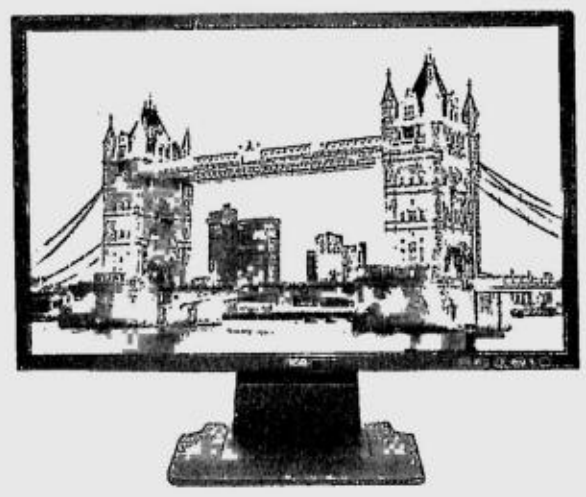

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3. Old monitors to be traded-in should be in working condition.
4. Traded-in monitors shall be donated to the *Build-A-Laboratory* program of the Management Information System Association (MISA) of the Ateneo de Manila University.
5. Promo is nationwide.
6. Promo period is from October 5 to December 31, 2006.

Php9,999.00*

THE AOC 193FW 19"

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*Suggested retail price is at Php11,999.00, less the old monitor trade-in value of Php2,000.00.

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Witness the unveiling of the new AOC 193FW 19"!
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Cherry FOODARAMA EVERYDAY LOW PRICES!

"We are among the first supermarkets in the Philippines. Though we don't say it, we feel the other big malls followed suit. They got the idea of having everything a person needs in one roof from Cherry."

A humble sari-sari store owner saw his business in a broader perspective. Seeing wealth in everyday things, Mr. Chan Man Bun and his wife pioneered the concept of the supermarket in the country.

"One of our partners saw a grocery in the U.S., liked it, and decided to apply it locally thus we put up Cherry Foodarama at Shaw Boulevard."

Throughout their 57 years in business, they treasured their relationships and, in return, gained the loyalty of their customers.

"There are clients/families who, up to the 4th generation, do their grocery at Cherry. We kept the feel of a family grocery. Nakasanayan na kami."

Staying true to their roots, they gained success in simple things and earned their place in people's hearts. In every store, they made sure their clients felt right at home.

"We started banking with Metrobank 7 years ago. The service is good, and Metrobank is just a corner away."

Chan Man Bun and Mila Chan
Owners, Cherry Foodarama
Partner since 1999

Metrobank shares the vision of Cherry Foodarama, Mr. Chan Man Bun and Mrs. Mila Chan.

As the country's leading financial institution,
A network of over 800 domestic and international offices, subsidiaries and affiliates worldwide,
Personal service, and a complete range of products that fit any banking need,
At Metrobank, the dream to make it big is real.

Imagine a partnership that can take you where you want to be.

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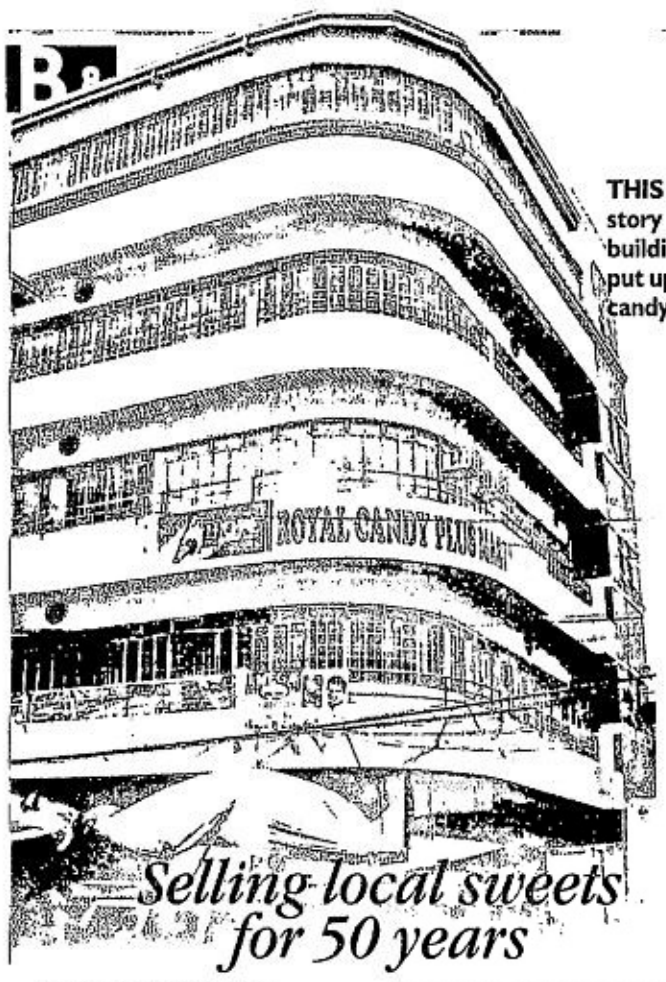

THIS FIVE-story building was put up from candy sales.

Selling local sweets for 50 years

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—WHAT WAS once a small Chinese-owned candy store selling homemade, flour-based square "sitsaron" that was twice a victim of fire that burned the shop completely, is now a business giant that the Philippine Chamber of

SELLING/ B5

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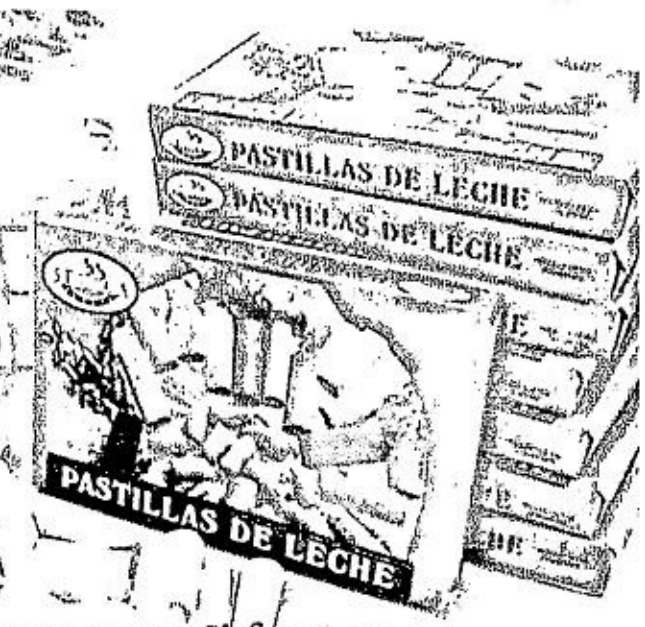
Sunday BIZ

Pastillas makers vow to mix through thick and thin



Young generation not keen on following parents' footsteps

By Lora Queñano
Contributor

SAN MIGUEL, BULACAN—This eastern Bulacan town, about 70 km from Metro Manila, literally thrives in the sweetness of its products.

Motorists and travelers along the Cagayan Valley Road here will not miss the stalls selling the town's famous pastillas de leche—a soft and creamy carabao milk candy that has supported the livelihood of many families here.

San Miguel residents cannot tell exactly when the production of their pastillas started but say the candies have been part of every resident's growing years.

"Since I was young, pastillas de leche has been a common, if not the main, source of livelihood in our town," says Marissa de la Cruz, 48, owner of Ric-Mar Sweets and Delicacies here.

"As a two-year-old, I saw my grandmother, whom many call Aling Impiyang, cooking and selling this mouthwatering sweet in the market," says Gemma Sevilla-Alcantara, production manager of Sevilla Sweets.

She says the production of pastillas and other sweets has been the main source of income for their family for three generations.

Mostly relying on the manpower of family members and the culinary skills of their elders, pastillas making in the town is still considered a backyard and traditional industry.

Many of those involved in the business fear that the industry will soon fade as fewer members of the younger generation have been expressing interest in sustaining the business.

But Alcantara and De la Cruz are hopeful that the industry will stay for generations more.

Alcantara says one of her four children seems to be interested in keeping their family's niche in the business while De la Cruz is hoping that her eldest son would take the reigns of their shop someday.

Good income source

Alcantara is proud to relate how her grandmother's "rags to riches" story got the family involved in the business.

"My grandmother owned a little store in the market and we were classified as 'squatters' then. I remembered how we were ejected from the property of our landlady. But it was a blessing in disguise that my grandmother and parents found a place along the national highway where their products sold like hot cakes," she says.

"The legacy of Sevilla Sweets started there. Until now, our pastillas are still bringing us a good source of income," she says, noting that no family member is engaged in any other business.

Sevilla Sweets has opened several branches in some of the biggest shopping malls in Metro Manila and Cebu.

Alcantara says their products' good packaging (their products come in specially designed boxes) helps attract the A and B market.

De la Cruz, on the other hand, describes their business' current situation as "struggling," far from its peak in the 1990s.

"[During that time] we get a P20 profit for every P100 worth of pastillas. But today, we get P10 only," she says.

De la Cruz started the business as sole proprietor in 1989 when she learned the process of cooking from her mother-in-law.

She supplied her products to her brother, Ernesto Vidal, who owned a pasalubong store. Vidal would in turn supply some of her products to stalls in the City of San Fernando in Pampanga.

De la Cruz says a sister-in-law also gets products from her and supplies these to shopping malls in Metro Manila.

Vidal says there are at least 40 registered pastillas makers in San Miguel.

Export market

Mara Bautista, executive director of Bulacan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), says Bulacan's pastillas can be exported because of its uniqueness.

"But we and the makers are still developing how to prolong [the products'] shelf life," she says.

She says the short shelf life of the products (three to five days) hinders producers from expanding their market.

She says most of the local products' simple white papel de hapon (Japanese paper) packaging are unattractive, especially to the high-end market.

While the BCCI has been encouraging producers to improve on this aspect, many are hesitant.

"We cannot afford to spend to improve our packaging because it means additional expenses for us. It is also not practical since we cannot increase the prices of the products," De la Cruz says.

Bautista says people engaged in pastillas production are "more of entrepreneurs than

PASTILLAS/ B7

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CARPET of flowers honors the Blessed Sacrament carried by a priest followed by the choir at the Paref Woodrose School's second Eucharistic Procession PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

The day turns up roses

An ancient Catholic procession is revived

By Mitzie J. Icasiano
Contributor

AN EVENT tracing its roots to a Catholic tradition originating in the 13th century, the eucharistic procession draws the crowd because of spectacular floral mosaics or carpets carefully and painstakingly assembled from hundreds of dozens of fresh petals and blooms.

THE DAY/ C2

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MASS precedes the procession. (Above) Woodrose students contributed their allowance to buy the fresh flowers that are formed into floral mosaics.

The day turns up *roses*

From page C1

On these floral carpets treads a contingent led by the priest carrying the Blessed Sacrament (or the consecrated host on a monstrance), with the choir behind him. Not until the procession begins does anybody step on the floor assemblage.

Honoring Christ

Although this may mirror the mundane honor accorded a dignitary or royalty whose path is strewn with flowers, the eucharistic procession is different in that it honors the presence of Christ, and the flowers do not come in just a few petals but in hundreds, even thousands, arranged as a floral artwork.

This charming Catholic tradition has been revived by the Paref Woodrose School in Ayala Alabang Village, which held its second Eucharistic Procession last Wednesday.

Woodrose School began its own eucharistic procession in 2005 to coincide with the Year of the Eucharist declared by the late Pope John Paul II the previous year. Students were oriented on how the floral carpets were to look, based on the experiences of people who had witnessed such processions abroad.

Soon after, students, teachers and parents got to work. They raised funds and brainstormed on designs. Came the eve of the procession and everyone got down on their knees to draw, cut and decorate.

Although the Corpus Christi celebration would fall sometime in June, the procession this year was held much later to allow ample time for fundraising. Students were encouraged to give to the funds by saving from their own allowance and making small sacrifices.

Major landscape

Walking through a stretch of students, teachers and mothers working on the pathways the afternoon before the procession, and seeing the boxes of flowers, leaves and sacks of colored wood shavings and sawdust, one would think Woodrose has become one major landscaping project.

Teams were divided according to student grade/year levels, alumnae association and school staff. There were students sorting out petals by color and kind. There were people on their knees setting leaves, petals and sawdust on top of the traced-out drawings. There were young graders spraying water on the finished assemblages.

In April 2005, the University of Notre Dame in Indiana made news for reviving the tradition of eucharistic processions. As in the Woodrose event, students collaborated on the activity. Benedictions in Notre Dame's processions even sought out a theme of cultural diversity and were organized according to Filipino, European and Latino customs.

Those who have witnessed eucharistic processions abroad said the Alabang version was awesome as the designs looked embossed and full.

One thing is for sure though, eucharistic processions at Woodrose are here to stay. It is a tradition that may inspire others to restore in other parts of the country.

Jews celebrate F of Tabernacle in I

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

JERUSALEM—BY THE TIME WE arrived in Tel-Aviv on Oct. 9, thousands of Jews from all over the world had already been there for two days to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacle or "Succoth" in Israel.

It is in keeping with tradition established by God in Leviticus 23:43-45. People gather in a celebration called "succoth." In modern times, "sukhas" are put up outside houses and buildings.

We were invited by Israel's Ministry of Tourism, El Al Airlines and Rafi Shelef Tourism, in coordination with Ephesus Travel. Also in the group are Channel 9 television producer Meng Canlas, cameraman Dick Bonus, writer Catherine "Chit" Chua and production assistant Edith Santiago; Bishop Reynaldo Domingo of the IRM Church; Pastor Eric Maliwat, station manager of 702 DZAS; Sonia Atabug, PR director of Philippine Women's University, who writes for the travel section of Manila Bulletin; and Rose Galang of Ephesus Travel. Total Assist Insurance sponsored our travel insurance.

The visit was aimed at showing Filipinos that Israel was safe. Filipinos comprise a major bulk of pilgrims to the Holy Land.

Before entering Jerusalem, our tour guide Jacob Tamari read from the Psalms. He called Jerusalem the City of God and the City of Hope.

The State of Israel was created in 1948 and Jerusalem became the capital in 1949. For 19 years, the city was divided between Israel and Jordan. Jews and Israelis were prohibited from visiting their holy places. In 1967, Jerusalem was reunified and freedom to worship was restored.

From the Jerusalem Gate Hotel, we were driven by Yoram Barr to Mount Scopus for a panoramic view of Jerusalem, then to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of the Agony, also called the Church of All Nations.

We prayed before the altar surrounded with thorns and contemplated the agony of Jesus. Before entering, I read the Gospel on the Agony in the Garden.

Wailing Wall

We joined hundreds of Jews at the Wailing Wall, also called the Western Wall of the ruined Temple. Prayers were written on tiny pieces of paper and inserted in tiny crevices in the belief that heaven would answer them.

I found out in 1999 that prayers were indeed answered. The late Alice Padlan of Arpex Travel brought me to the Holy Land for the first time. Now I was back with Rose, Sonia and Chit, putting prayers for friends at home.

THE JEWS at the Western Wall, also k

The spookier, the better

GHOSTS, GOBLINS AND GHOULS, THE ANCIENT CELTS BELIEVED, DESCENDED into towns on the night of Oct. 31 or Hallows Eve, a prelude for what was supposedly the darkest time of the year, the first day of November. People have since then left "treats" on their doorsteps to appease these fearsome creatures and to be spared from being hurt. But Shopwise tells everyone that Halloween is not to be spent hiding under the sheets and all should instead bask in the spooky fun this occasion creates. So why not a costume competition?

The contest is open to all Shopwise customers. Simply fill up a registration form at the customer service of Shopwise branches until Oct. 30 to join the contest.

In the Pirates of Halloween, participants must dress according to any of these three characters: à la "Pirates of the Caribbean's" Jack Sparrow or any of his mates; as a loathsome creature from the sea; or as a creepy ghoul that's everyone's worst nightmare. Registration is open for both the kids and adult categories. The big showdown will be held simultaneously at all Shopwise outlets on Oct. 31 at 4 p.m. Lucky winners with the most snappy and eye-catching costumes get to take home Shopwise gift certificates worth P10,000, P5,000 and P3,000 for the grand prize winners, second- and third-place winners respectively. All who come in costume also get a free loot bag worth of goodies. Shopwise is in Alabang, Makati, Libis, Antipolo Harrison Plaza Mall and in Araneta Center, Cubao.

No tricks, all treats

A traditional "trick or treat" costume parade kicks off on Oct. 29, 10 a.m., at the activity center of Robinsons Malls, followed by a special show featuring magic acts and live performances from guest child celebrities. Kids with the best Halloween costumes will receive gift certificates plus gift packs.

Interested parties may register at any participating Robinsons Mall: Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Place Pioneer, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Place Imus, Robinsons Place Dasmarinas, Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños, Robinsons Place Lipa, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Star Mills Pampanga and Robinsons Place Angeles.

Call 6836100 locals 780/782 or 6836137.

Halloween weekend

Camp John Hay offers a cool Halloween weekend Oct. 27-31. Musicians will perform acoustic hits while painters and artists draw your portrait at the Art Park on Ordonio Drive Oct. 27-30. In the evenings, watch classic horror movies as a cozy bonfire warms the chilly night.

On Oct. 29, the Camp John Hay White Party blasts off at the Golf Clubhouse. A prize awaits the guest with most fabulous white outfit.

Children of all ages on Oct. 31 will enjoy the camp-wide Halloween Trick-or-Treat activities at the Scout Hill, a mime show and kiddie program and the Goth+Glam Street Party, both at the Art Park.

AllStars, grand champion of the Hip Hop International Competition in Turin, Italy, and a hip-reggae band will get the party rolling. Guests wearing the best rock star, pop star, or Goth + Glam outfits will win fabulous prizes.

Call 6376966 in Manila, or (074) 4425782 in Baguio.

Magical masquerade

Festival Supermall marks Halloween with a grand party for kids from 3 p.m., Oct 31. Magical Masquerade is open to kids 3-12 years old. Kids can go trick-or-treating around the mall 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The best grand ball costume wins a special prize. Each participant gets a loot bag, free ice cream and cotton candy, plus a whole lot of freebies. There will be games and entertainment.

A minimum purchase of P1,000 single or maximum of three accumulated receipts from any Festival Supermall store gives a kid a chance to join the Masquerade ball. Five sheets of 10 ride tickets from Pixie Forest and X-site amusement center dated Oct. 1-31, as well as five accumulated receipts worth P1,000 at Tom's World, will also let a kid join the ball.

Festival Supermall is at Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Call 8503514.

'Spooktacular' weekend

Oasis Country Resort in San Fernando, La Union, offers a special Halloween weekend. Halloween activities include balloon twisting, magical tricks, games, face painting and costume contest for kids. One of the highlights of the Halloween event is the launching of Oasis' Belgian Chocolate Fountain, at P375 per person inclusive of entrance fee and food. Call Oasis Country Resort Manila sales office at 7255443 or La Union office at (072) 2425621.

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east israel

The temple was destroyed by the Romans in the year 70 AD. Only the Western or "Wailing Wall" remained, becoming the focus of Jewish pilgrimage and mourning.

Our tour guide Jacob Tamari said the Jews were driven away from Israel and were gone for 2,000 years, settling in different parts of the world. Tamari said, "When the state of Israel was established in 1948, 500,000 Jews came back... from all over the world. Now, there are six million Jews in Israel, 750,000 of them in Jerusalem."

RP-Israel ties

Ambassador Tony Modena said the Philippines and Israel were celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relations in November 2007. The Philippines was one of 33 countries in the United Nations that voted in 1948 to create Israel.

nown as the Wailing Wall

AMBASSADOR Tony Modena with Manila visitors to Israel and his staff

When other nations in Europe refused to accept Jews fleeing from Nazi tyranny, the Philippines welcomed them with open arms. President Manuel Quezon made 10,000 visas available to allow Jews to travel to the Philippines.

Housing was provided in Marikina for the refugees. Quezon also set aside a farm and settlement area in Mindanao before World War II for 35,000 refugees.

Pilgrimages to the Holy Land are being organized. Text Ephesus at 0917-8010408, call Adam's at 5211651 or your favorite travel agent.

Retirement

The archdiocese of Tuguegarao will hold a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 26 at 3 p.m. for the clergy retirement home in Maddarulug, Solana town.

The Devotees of Nuestra Señora de Piat Foundation, headed by Gen. Edgar Aglipay, is spearheading the fundraising.

The pilgrim image of Our Lady of Piat was brought to Manila for a Holy Mass celebrated by Archbishop Talamayan at the ballroom of the Manila Pavilion Hotel. This was one of the events sponsored by the Department of Tourism in Region 2.

The image will be at the DOT Central Office, Oct. 21-Nov. 1; Medical Center Manila, Nov. 2-7; Music Hall of the Mall of Asia, Nov. 8; Experience Philippines Travel and Living Fair, Nov. 9-10; Ermita Church, Nov. 11-22; SM City Clark, Angeles, Pampanga, Nov. 23; and North Phil. International Tourism Fair, Nov. 24-26.

Bazaar

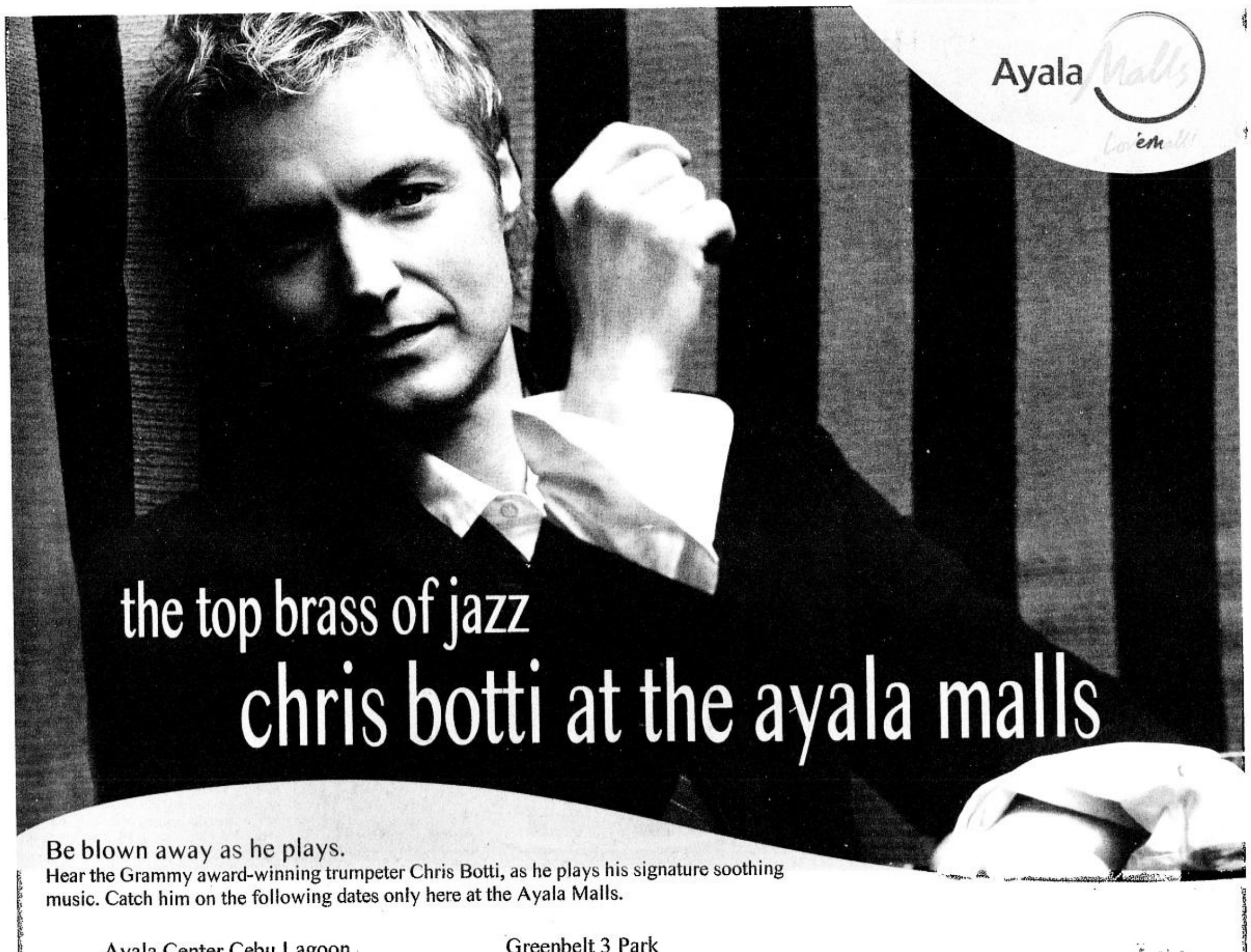
The Catholic Women's Club is holding its "Casa y Jardin" Christmas bazaar 9 a.m.-6 p.m. today at the Hotel InterContinental to raise funds for its projects.

Medical mission

The God Loves Catholic Community in Agoo, La Union, will hold a medical mission on Oct. 29 in three *barangays*. Bro. Cesar needs donations like paracetamol, mefenamic acid and vitamins. Cash donations are also welcome. Please text 0917-7959565.

Visit

Cardinal Rosales will visit the Center for Migrant Youth 9 a.m. today, an event that Fr. Ben Villote and the youth are looking forward to. The center is now at 15 Goldman St., East Fairview, QC. Fr. Ben said Caritas Manila committed to help subsidize the youth's education. In return, CMY will accept migrant youth recommended by Caritas. Let's continue to help.



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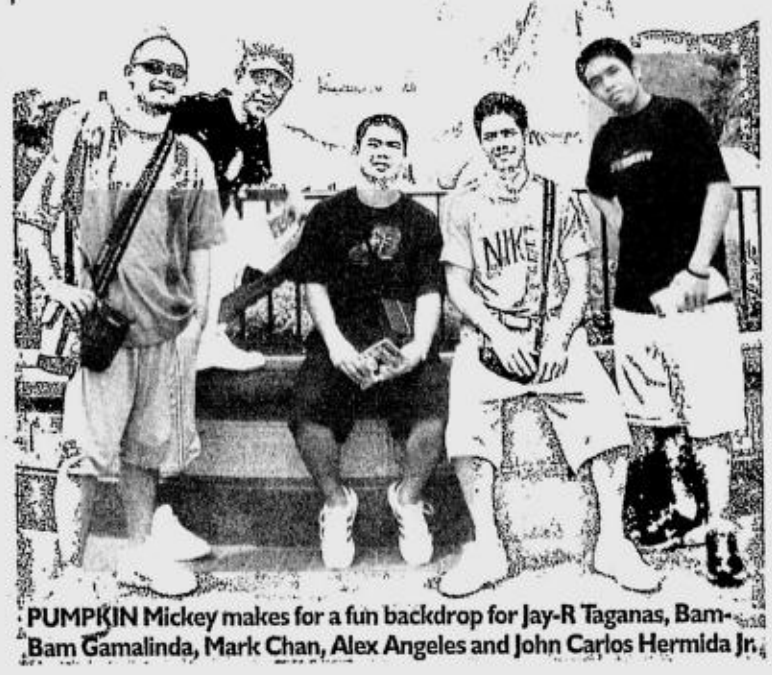
The new kings of the NCAA jungle are treated to a four-day vacation in the former Crown Colony

Lions paint HK town red



PUMPKIN Mickey makes for a fun backdrop for Jay-R Taganas, Bam-Bam Gamalinda, Mark Chan, Alex Angeles and John Carlos Hermida Jr.

By Noy Africa
Contributor

IT IS A TRADITION IN THE United States that after the final championship game, the winning team is asked where it is going next. "We're going to Disneyland!" the champions would reply.

Well, that was exactly what the Red Lions of San Beda College did!

Having ended a 28-year title drought in the National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball tournament, the new Kings of the NCAA jungle were treated to a four-day vacation in Hong Kong, site of the newest Disneyland theme park.

COACH Koy Banal clowns around in this photo with John Paul Escobal, Taganas, Jed Evangelista and his son Isaiah.

SAM Ekwe grabs the front seat on the Disney tram.

GUARD Evangelista with assistant coaches

LAURIAT is a fitting meal for a pride of hungry Red Lions.

As typhoon "Milenyo" was leaving the Philippines, but before wreaking havoc all over Metro Manila and Southern Luzon, the Bedans were flying out close on its heels. Upon arrival in Hong Kong, the entourage was brought to the Marco Polo Gateway Hotel, their home for the next four days and three nights. They then took the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) to Central for dinner at Peking Garden, where they feasted on Chinese food, lauriat style.

Meeting Mickey Mouse

On the second day, the Red Lions were up and about early to take off for the land of Mickey Mouse. All of a sudden this group of hefty athletes turned into giddy little boys as they were nearing Hong Kong Disneyland.

With Red Lions head coach Koy Banal still calling the shots (yes, even in Disneyland), the team boarded the Disneyland train and decided to go for the kill early by going straight to the Space Mountain. As the ride went through its twists, turns and drops, the air was filled with Red Lions' roars—roars of bliss, excitement and fear.

Afterwards, the group decided to break up and visit as many attractions as possible for that total Disney experience.

To cap off the Disney experience, the group proceeded to watch the "Festival of the Lion King." Here they were witness to the celebration of the journey of Simba from a cub to his ascent to the throne as King of the Jungle. How fitting!

After leaving Disneyland, the players were transported by bus to a steak dinner, a five-star experience and an appropriate meal for a pride of hungry Lion Kings.

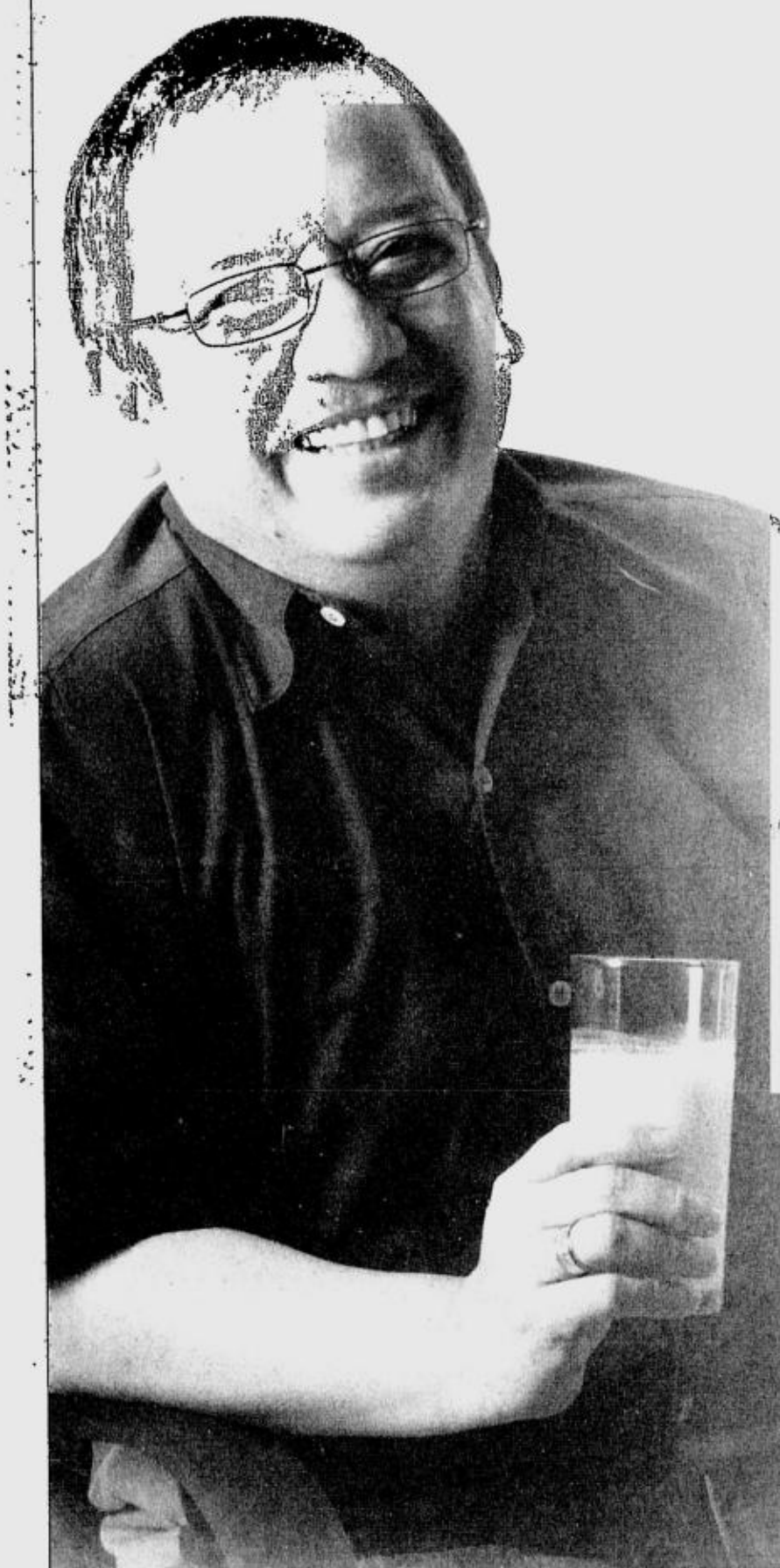
On the prowl

Sunday was free time for the team. After meeting up for breakfast, they split up into smaller groups with their own itineraries. Some had to catch the morning flight back to Manila as the PBA season was opening that day. Another group proceeded to Ocean Park Hong Kong to watch dolphins and sea lions (again!) co-starring in a great show at the Ocean Theater. The rest went shopping, a must-do in HK.

As it happened to be a holiday in Hong Kong, the Red Lions witnessed a fireworks display held at the harbor, which turned out to be a proper ending to their last full day in Hong Kong.

Every good thing must come to an end. After a few days of leisure and relaxation, the Red Lions headed back to Manila and to the reality that there was more work to be done. In fact, practice was scheduled the very next day after the trip.

From the Red Lions to their staunch benefactors Manny V. Pangilinan and other San Beda alumni who made the HK trip possible, here's one big roar of thanks.



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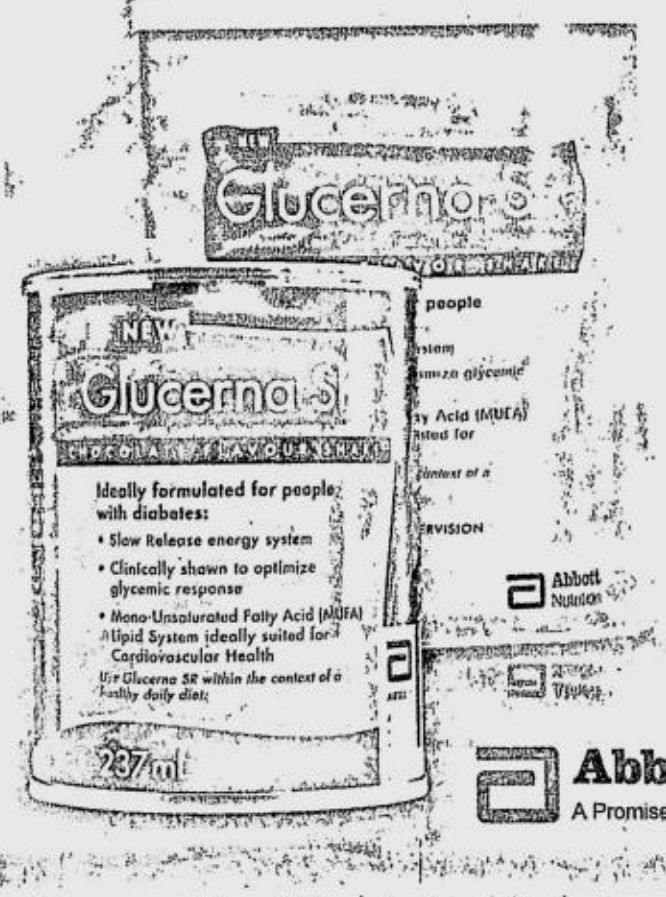

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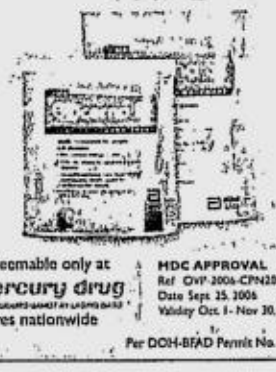

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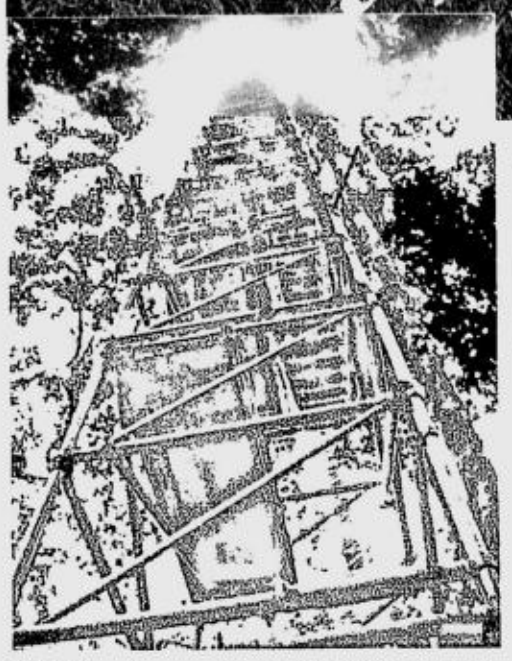
Easy, enticing Brunei

This affluent sultanate is only now beginning to promote itself as an alternative destination for its Asian neighbors

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EMPIRE HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB



CRAWL a thousand-plus steps from the foot of the mountain, then climb up this 50-metal structure to get an unobstructed 360-degree view of Ulu Temburong's virgin rainforest (inset).

Text and photos by Cheche V. Moral

OUR HOST SAID IF HE threw a stone across the room in a busy *dim-sum* restaurant in Brunei where we were having lunch, chances were whoever it would hit was related to him. If not, he added, pretty soon they'd be related.

He was kidding, of course, but with Brunei having a population of roughly only 350,000—just about as many as the inhabitants of several buildings on Ayala, jested one Filipino companion—quite likely he was right.

Its modern capital city of Bandar Seri Begawan is said to have one of the highest human-to-car ratios in the world (a liter of gas is about Brunei$.50; Brunei$1 = P32), though for us who live in frenzied Manila, its roads seemed like lonely empty highways.

It was imagined visions of the gilded ostentation of palaces of one of the world's richest men that had us going when Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA), the Brunei Tourism Board and Tourism Malaysia brought our media group on a twin-city tour of Brunei and Kota Kinabalu in the Sabah state of Malaysia.

It was dusk and drizzling when our plane landed in Begawan, and even in the falling darkness, the lush foliage below was visible from our plane window. Nestled among them were sprawling abodes that would make Manila mansions seem humble in comparison. This petroleum-rich sultanate, after all, has one of the highest per capita incomes in the world. It's a state-subsidized, tax-free society.

While its Asian neighbors have long been vying for their share of the tourism market, the affluent sultanate is only now just beginning to promote itself as an alternative destination for its traveling neighbors.

"Very little is known about Brunei," said Hj Rozman Hj Junaidi, RBA's VP for corporate communication. "Not many know that it's only a two-hour flight from Manila or Singapore," and not in the Middle East as we thought.

Ideal haunt

Brunei Darussalam has a total land area of 5,271 sq km, 70 percent of which is rainforest, making it an ideal haunt for ecotourism. In the eastern part is the Ulu Temburong National Park, a vast unspoiled forest that has attracted nature lovers and scientists from all over.

Getting there is an experience in itself. A 45-minute ride aboard a water taxi, or morbidly called Flying Coffins, takes you through Kampong Ayer, the Old Brunei where some 30,000 locals still reside on houses on stilts. (The gold dome of the royal palace can be seen from here.) Thick mangroves line the water highway.

After a yummy welcome of *roti* and *rendang* at a local eatery, a short drive will take you to a pier where a motorized banca awaits to transport you on a 20-minute ultra-speed ride upstream to the park. Beats the roller coaster any day!

Don't be surprised if you suddenly hear someone from outside your group speaking Tagalog. Brunei has some 20,000 Filipinos living or working there. (Yes, they have Jollibee, and many locals are fans of Kristine Hermosa and Jericho Rosales soaps.) Our guide, Lilian, for one, is an Ilongga married to a Bruneian for the last 17 years. In this former British protectorate, locals speak English, Malay and Chinese. (The nation boasts a literacy rate of 92 percent.)

Make sure you've logged months of training

EASY/ D2

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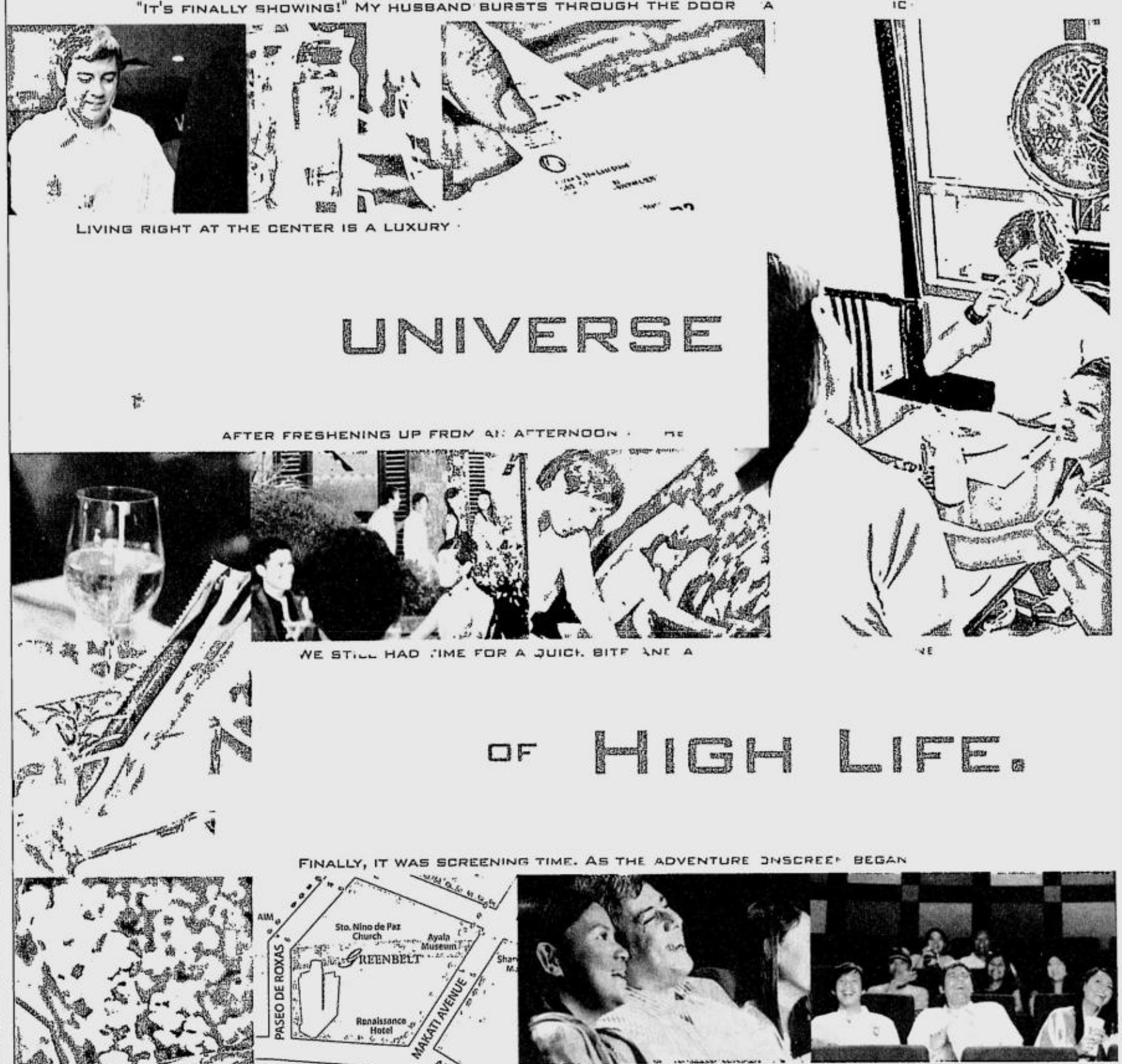

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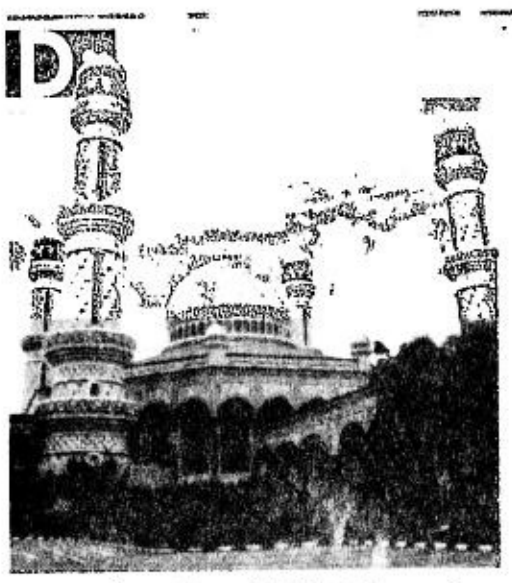
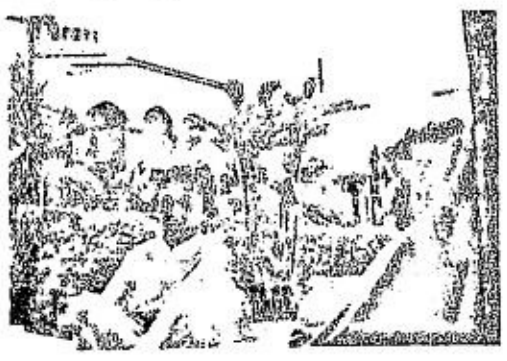
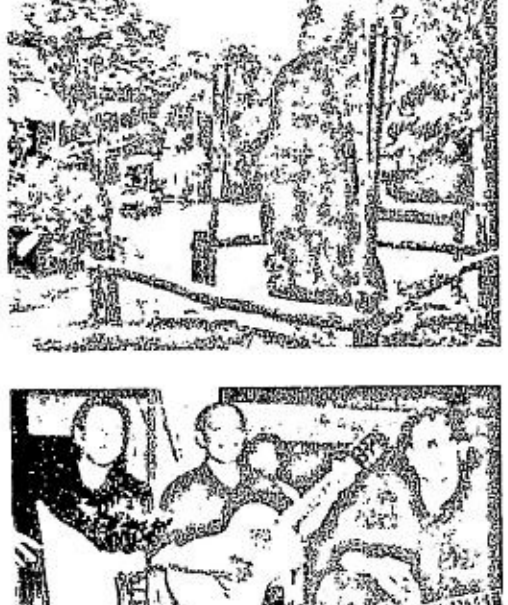
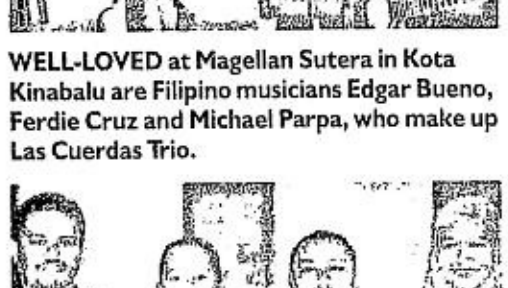


THE JAMÉ Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque has 26 golden domes, built to commemorate Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah's coronation as Brunei's 26th ruler. Below, young Muslims at the mosque's grounds



DETAILS of a hut in Kota Kinabalu's Monsopiad, a former headhunting warriors' village. Below are pronged bamboo poles where severed heads were left to dry under the sun.





WELL-LOVED at Magellan Sutera in Kota Kinabalu are Filipino musicians Edgar Bueno, Ferdie Cruz and Michael Parpa, who make up Las Cuerdas Trio.

ROYAL Brunei Airlines execs Hj Rozman Hj Junaidi, Rosliyah Mohamad Ali, Joel G. Aquino and Radhiah Abdullah

Easy, enticing Brunei

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EMPIRE HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB

From page D1

on the treadmill if you take this trek. Elderly Japanese tourists we met on the way up put us to shame for not breaking a single sweat!

It's over a thousand-step uphill climb amid centuries-old trees to get to the foot of the canopy walkway, and another 50-meter climb on the steel structure that affords a breathtaking bird's eye view of the virgin forest. Not for wusses, sure, but if you can muster enough guts your wobbly knees are justly rewarded.

Our home in Brunei was perhaps what best approximated the lavish images we had of the sultanate. The Empire Hotel and Country Club (www.theempirehotel.com) was built in 2000 to house the dignitaries of the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference. It's a six-star beachfront hotel that has over 423 rooms and villas; three cinemas; a full-service spa and gym; and an 18-hole Jack Nicklaus-designed championship golf course, making it the ideal getaway for families, honeymooners and diehard golfers. (Brunei has four major golf courses.)

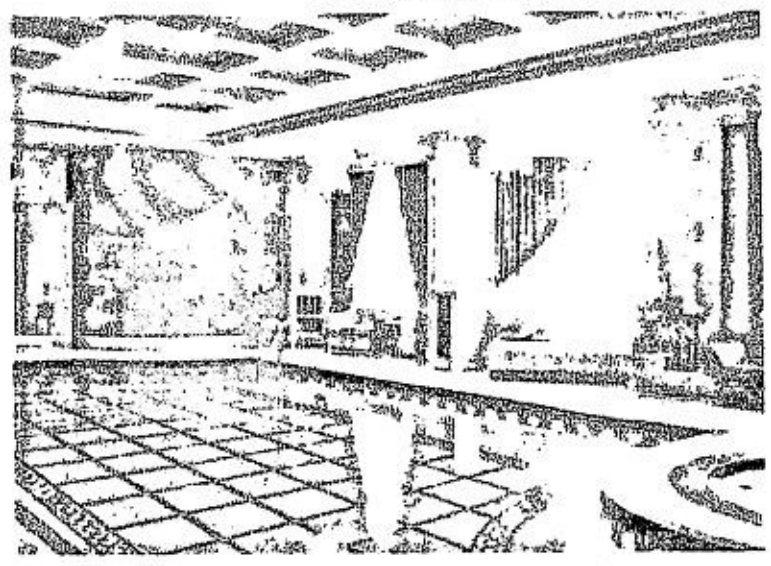
The Empire's magnificence is underscored by its high ceilings (the atrium soars over 12 stories from floor to ceiling), gold fittings, Italian marble columns, walls and floorings, and stair railings inlaid with semiprecious stones. Its presidential suite alone has its own lap pool and costs about $17,000 a night, or equivalent to the cost of a small house! Late-edition Porsches and Lexuses line the clubhouse's driveway at any given day.

Royal reception

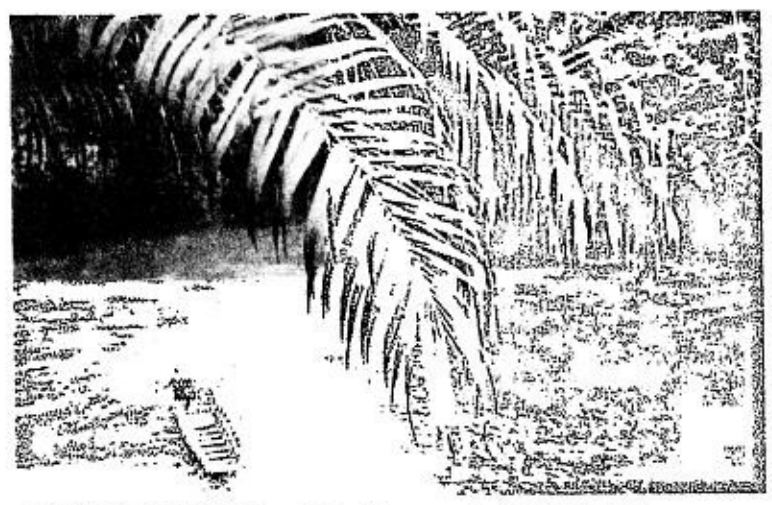
If your visit falls on Oct. 26 at the end of Ramadan, make sure to join the queue at Istana Nurul Iman, the residential palace of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah. (Trivia: our National Artist Leandro Locsin designed the palace.) This is the one time of the year when the royal family opens the palace to well-wishers.

The Sultan and other male members of the family hold an audience with male guests. Her Majesty and the rest of the female royal household receive the women guests. (RBA offers Hari Raya tours for Oct. 25-27. For other packages, call 8973309, 8953545, 8996290; visit www.bruneiair.com/philippines. RBA is the only airline that flies to Brunei directly from Manila.)

But if, like us, you end up in the sultanate at other times of the year, you can make do with a visit to the Brunei Museum, where you get a glimpse of the royal trappings, including His Majesty's coronation carriage and the gifts received from other heads of states (including a *salakot* and a *kris* from two Philippine presidents). Encased in glass are the coronation finery made of gold and precious stones, among which is a gold life-size replica of an arm, palm facing upward; our guide said this was where the royal rested his chin during the long ceremony. Soak it all up with your eyes as no picture-taking is allowed within the museum.



A TRUE testament to Brunei luxury, The Empire Hotel & Country Club (top); private pool of its presidential suite, a $17,000-a-night indulgence (above)



A ROLLER-COASTER boat ride takes you to the idyllic Ulu Temburong National Park.

SABAH'S Kota Kinabalu, home of the World Heritage Site, Kinabalu Park

HADRAH, a drum ensemble that's also a traditional Bruneian welcome

PHOTO: THE EMPIRE HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB

Also a must is a visit to the mosques. One of the main and newer ones is the 26-gold-domed Jamé Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque. The Sultan is the 26th ruler. As in any visit to a mosque, women are asked to dress modestly; an *abaya*, a long black robe, is provided for female visitors.

Don't expect to find great shopping in Brunei like you would on a trip to Hong Kong, Singapore, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur or even Manila. While it has its share of malls, BTB officials say the population is too small that they would likely not sustain bigger retail activities.

Bruneians prefer to go abroad for their own shopping. This is also why RBA is offering twin-city tours, which can be a choice of Manila-Brunei-Singapore/KL/Hong Kong/Jakarta jaunts.

Kota Kinabalu sojourn

For us, we continued our eco-trail with a sojourn to Kota Kinabalu, a 30-minute flight away. Found here is the Kinabalu Park, a World Heritage Site that covers an area bigger than the whole of Singapore, and Mt. Kinabalu, the highest mountain in the country. Indigenous in these parts of Borneo is the proboscis monkey that has a long, beak-like nose, and the rafflesia, a giant pitcher plant that's akin to the Venus flytrap.

Home for us was the Magellan Sutera, part of the rambling Sutera Harbour Resort and Golf Club (visit www.suteraharbour.com), that's preferred by divers, golfers and honeymooners alike.

If you ever find yourself in these parts and would like the services of a guide, you'd be happy to know that there are second-generation Filipino-Malaysians living here and working in the tourism industry.

The parents of Linda Cabanlit, who owns a travel agency, were originally from Siquijor; they moved to Sabah before she was born. Her husband Alex's kin are Ilocanos. Our convivial guide, Edmundo Cafe (e-mail edteljun@yahoo.com), has never visited the Philippines but speaks fluent Cebuano and Tagalog like Cabanlit.

Another Fil-Malaysian, John Aldrin Prudente, has been voted several times as Sabah Tourism's best guide (visit www.sabahtourism.com).

Cafe said there's a big Christian community in KK that it's not unusual for him, a Catholic, to sit at the same dinner table with a Muslim and still enjoy his own pork dish. Directions to churches mark the highways.

It's not uncommon for travelers to Brunei to make side trips to the Malaysian border, we were told. While the sultanate is considerably more lenient than other Muslim countries, it draws the line at alcohol that tourists make the short drive to the border for some boozing. Duty-free purchases of liquor from the border are, however, allowed back in, although discretion is advised with its consumption.

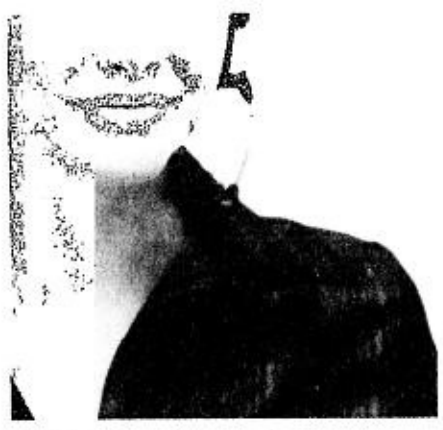
Upon arrival at the Begawan airport, don't be shocked when the local customs officer asks you, "*May alak?*"

Just smile and shake your head, knowing full well that, from hereon, part of the beauty of Brunei is that you won't get lost in translation.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

Help is just a phone call away

By Linda B. Bolido



With the Premium Concierge Service, Citibank hopes its cards will now be considered 'lifestyle companions and must-have accessories'

ONE OF THE FRUSTRATING THINGS about traveling is organizing not just your business agenda but your social calendar, as well.

Tickets to the hottest Broadway musical in New York or the new critically acclaimed West End play in London may not be easy to come by.

You even have to book in advance to get to see Leonardo da Vinci's famed "Last Supper" in Milan, Italy.

You hesitate to ask your overworked and harassed secretary who looks like she may be just about ready to go over the edge juggling all sorts of chores.

Of course, there is always the Internet. But if you are not computer savvy, leaving your secretary to deal with that "monster" called a computer, or are a little leery of sending information like credit card numbers hurtling into cyber space, what do you do?

Well, if you are a holder of a Citibank Gold Visa or Mastercard credit card, the right question to ask is who do you call?

Citibank, the Philippines' largest credit card issuer, now offers Premium Concierge Service.

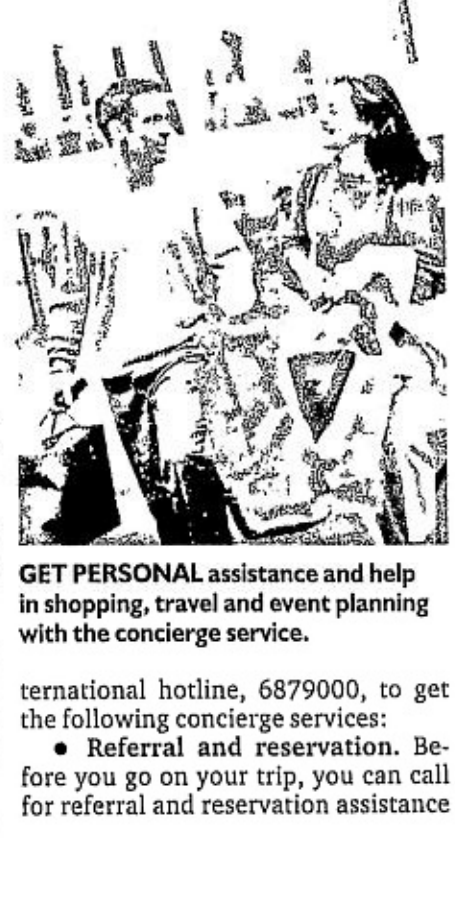
Personal assistance

Like any hotel concierge (remember the movie of the same title starring Michael J. Fox?), the service aims to help make life easier for busy and stressed executives and their staff by handling details that may seem minor but can cause a lot of aggravation when not handled properly.

Whether you are simply organizing your social life here or hoping to make the most of a trip abroad, you now have some one to call.

With the premium service offering assistance to gold card holders 24 hours a day, seven days a week, wherever they may be, Citibank breaks new ground. The service covers a host of travel and entertainment services.

Card holders just have to call the international hotline, 6879000, to get the following concierge services:



GET PERSONAL assistance and help in shopping, travel and event planning with the concierge service.

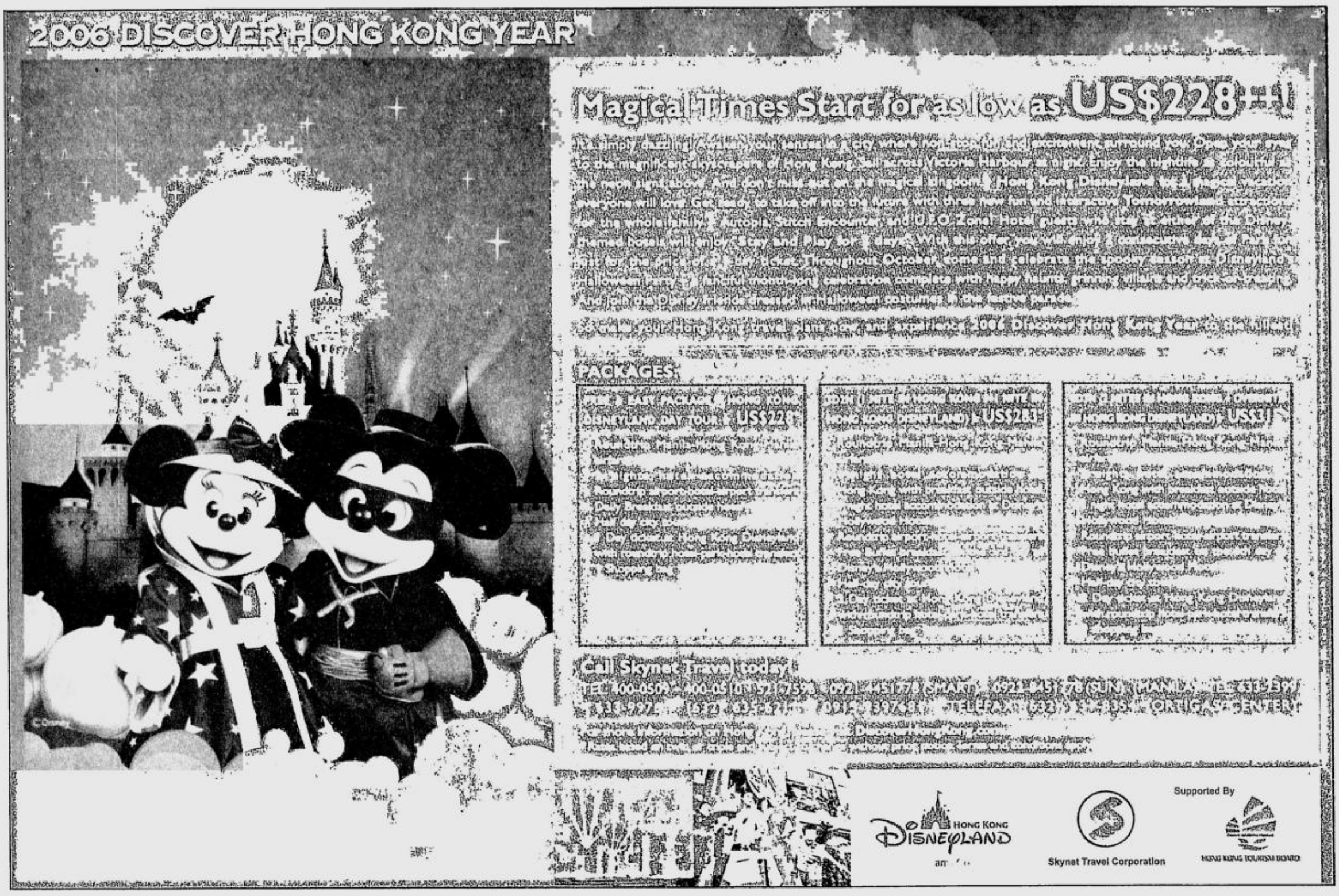
- **Referral and reservation.** Before you go on your trip, you can call for referral and reservation assistance for hotels, dining establishments, salons, car rental and other establishments and service providers. You can also call if, in the middle of your trip, you decide to make changes in your itinerary and travel plans.
- **Delivery and messengerial.** You can arrange for flower and/or gift delivery, courier service and messengerial service assistance.
- **Personal.** Get business service assistance and help in shopping, travel and event planning.
- **Emergency hotline.** Get emergency numbers for police and fire departments, medical institutions, towing services and government offices.

Citibank said the new Premium Concierge Service was part of their continuing effort "to raise the bar (in customer service)" by constantly innovating to meet the demands of their ever-changing lifestyles.

With the new service, the bank said it hoped that its Visa and Mastercard would now be considered as more than just credit cards but "lifestyle companions, must-have accessories to assist cardholders [meet] a multitude of requirements, not just locally but around the globe.

LOCAL COLOR. (From far left) Simpor, Brunei's national flower; snake fruit; proboscis monkey; lantern bug; bamboo orchid.

MONKEY PHOTO COURTESY OF SABAH TOURISM BOARD/DAVID KIRKLAND



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feline Fanciers of the Philippines Inc.
2006 Cats Championship Show
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Fashion Show
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October 27, 2006

3rd Philippine PETS & ACCESSORIES EXPO
November 13 to 19 2006

2nd Flora Asiatica
A Garden & Plant Show
November 13 to 19 2006

2nd Midnight FLEA MARKET
A Market of Good Finds & Value Shopping
December 10 to 31, 2006

Chihuahua Federation of the Philippines, Inc.

1ST CHIHUAHUA NATIONAL SHOW
November 04, 2006 - Saturday, Morning Session

1ST CHIHUAHUA SPECIALITY SHOW
November 04, 2006 - Saturday, Morning Session

3rd & 4th ALL BREED CHAMPIONSHIP DOG SHOW
November 05, 2006 - Sunday

SPECIAL EVENT
3rd Chihuahua Fashion Show
November 05, 2006 - Sunday, Noontime

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EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

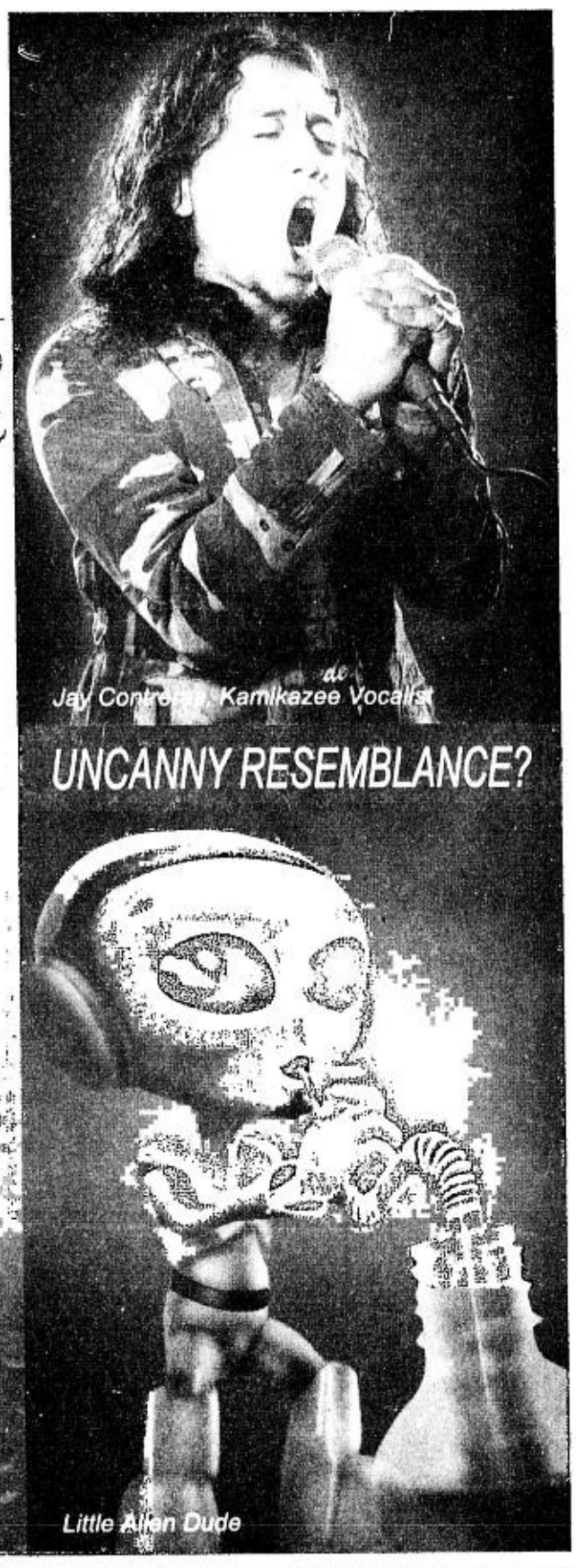
Sunday, October 22, 2006

EXCLUSIVE • UNBELIEVABLE • AMAZING • OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD

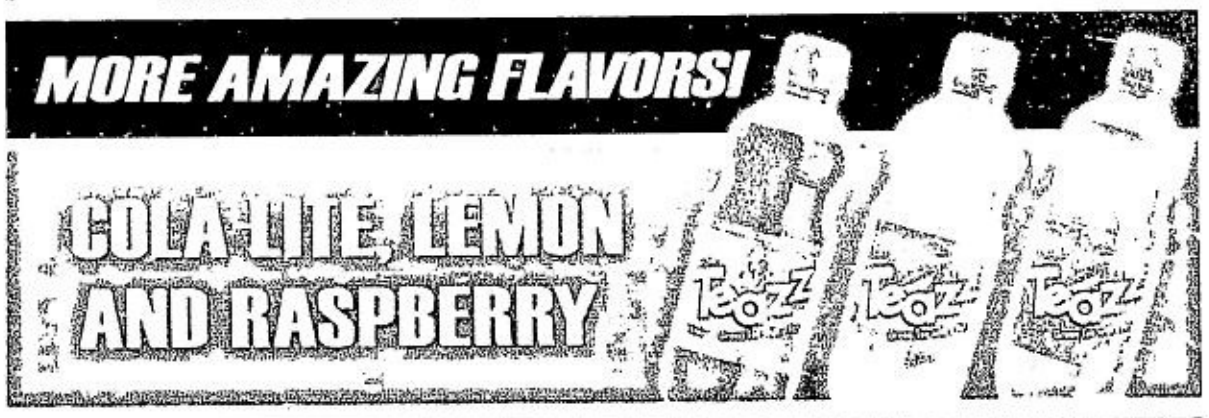
STRANGE BUT TRUE:

A COLA THAT'S ACTUALLY GOOD FOR YOU

NEW TEAZZ IS GREEN TEA WITH A FIZZ.

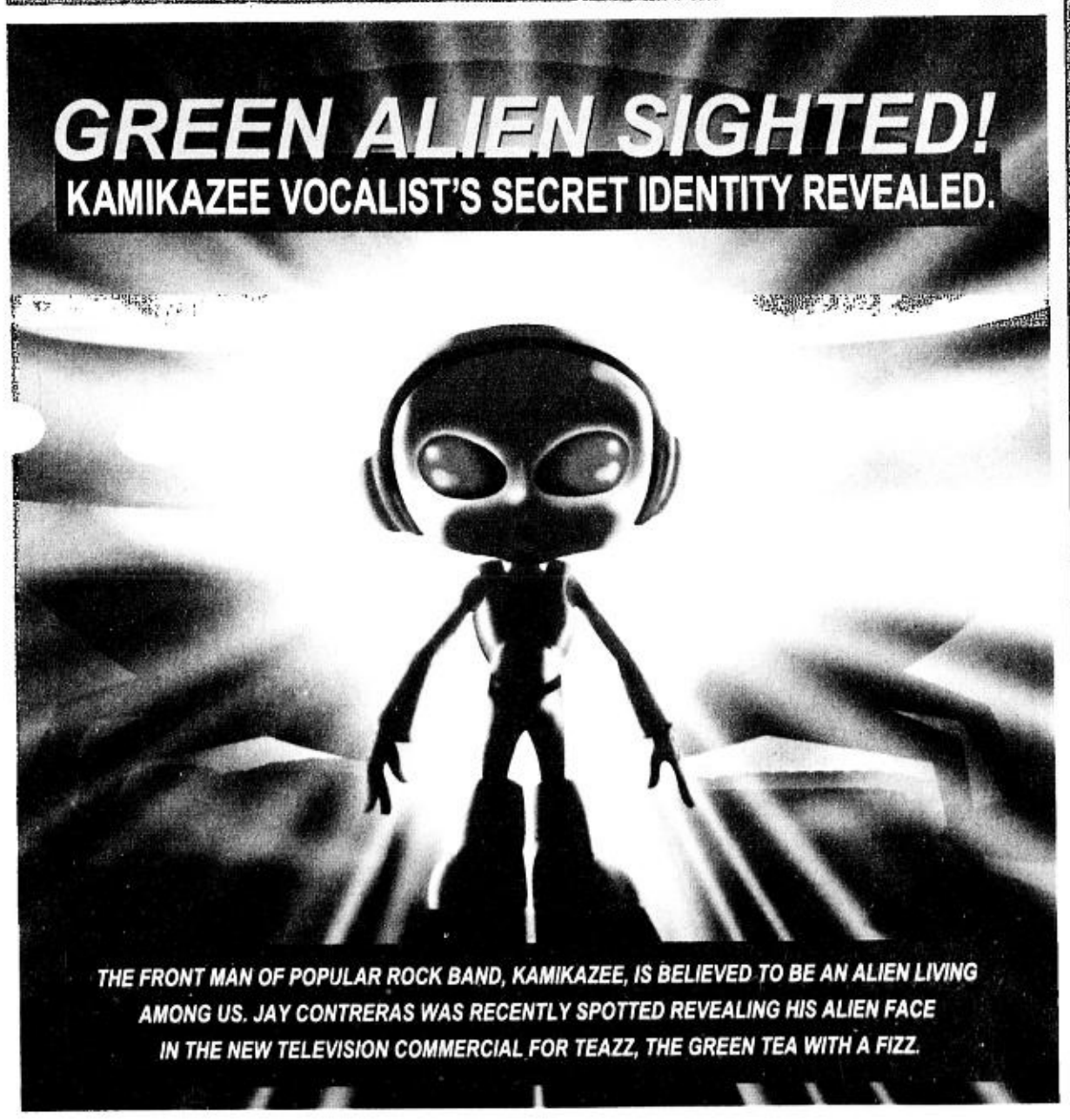


MORE AMAZING FLAVORS!



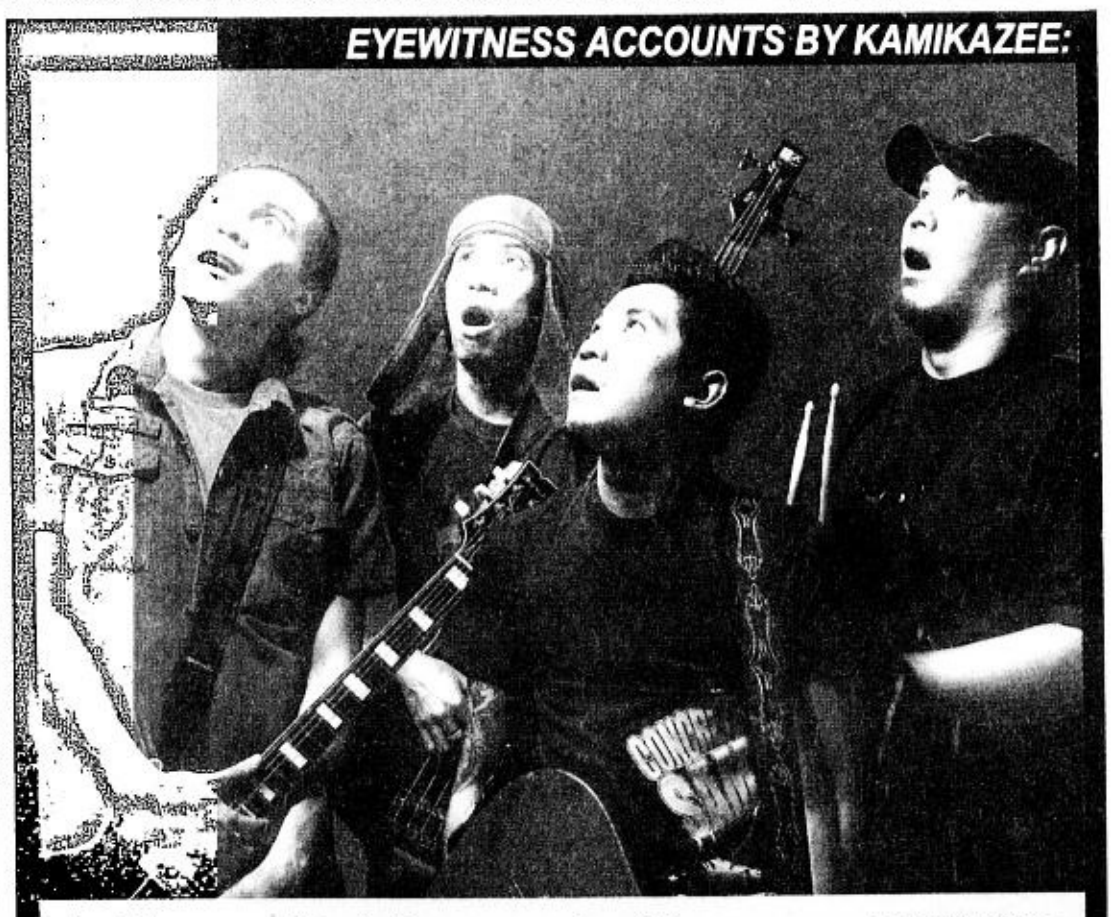
GREEN ALIEN SIGHTED!

KAMIKAZEE VOCALIST'S SECRET IDENTITY REVEALED.



THE FRONT MAN OF POPULAR ROCK BAND, KAMIKAZEE, IS BELIEVED TO BE AN ALIEN LIVING AMONG US. JAY CONTRERAS WAS RECENTLY SPOTTED REVEALING HIS ALIEN FACE IN THE NEW TELEVISION COMMERCIAL FOR TEAZZ, THE GREEN TEA WITH A FIZZ.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS BY KAMIKAZEE:



Led Tuyay, Guitarist

Puto Astete, Bassist

Jomal Linao, Guitarist

Bords Burdeos, Drummer

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THE GOOD COLA

POET in black, tempera on paper, late 17th century, Kyoto

TRUE beauty by Chikanobu, woodblock print, 1898, Kyoto

POETESS, tempera on paper, late 17th century, Kyoto

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Prints of the 'Floating World'

IMPERIOUS SHOGUNS AND WILY samurais, coquettish courtesans and scheming ladies-in-waiting, dashing kabuki actors and their swooning fans—these were a rich source of inspiration for *ukiyo-e*, the art that arose in the urban centers of Edo (modern-day Tokyo), Osaka and Kyoto.

Firma, together with Greenbelt Ayala Mall, brings this world to life in an elegant exhibition of 17th- to 19th-century Japanese paintings and woodblock prints Oct. 25-Nov. 7 at the Greenbelt 3 lobby in Ayala Center.

Under the Tokugawa Shogunate of the Edo Period beginning 1603, the urban bourgeoisie of merchants, artisans and samurai developed a very special way of life with its own distinct literature and art which came to be known as *ukiyo*. *Ukiyo* in early Japanese poetry is the floating, transient, idle world.

By 17th century, it had acquired a new meaning: *Ukiyo* came to signify the elegant world of stylish pleasures. The novelist Asai Ryoi defines it in his 1661 novel, "Ukiyo-monogatari" (Tales of the Floating World): "living only for the moment, savoring the moon, the snow, the cherry blossoms and the maple leaves, singing songs, loving sake, women and poetry, letting oneself drift, buoyant and carefree, like a gourd carried along with the river current."

This era also witnessed the creation of *ukiyo-e* or "pictures of the floating world," the splendid genre painting of the bourgeoisie. Thanks to the art of woodblock printing, *ukiyo* images eventually found their way to the single-color works of Hishikawa Moronobu in the 1670s.

Featuring heroes modeled on city dwellers, *ukiyo-e* celebrated the chic diversions of urban pleasure districts, the theatre, festivals and travels.

Moronobu shaped the graphic style of the printed picture. At first, only India ink was used, then some prints were manually colored with a brush.

But by the 18th century Suzuki Harunobu developed the technique of polychrome printing. Although woodcuts developed their own distinctive style, it was one informed by fashion and novelty.

Thriving on the latest ideas and what was in vogue, *ukiyo-e* possessed its own formal aesthetic and had no spiritual relationship with trends in classical painting. Through the decades, changes in subjects and drawing styles were largely a function of the changing technology of printing.

Portraits

Portraits of actors were popular, a specialty of Utagawa Toyokuni (1769-1825) who depicted them as you would see them exactly on the performing stage. Later on, Hokusai shifted the emphasis from personal portraiture to a depiction of nature and landscapes with people looking like unintentionally comic creatures going about their daily business.

Within a decade, however, Hokusai was surpassed by Hiroshige who portrayed the familiar environment of Edo in 1832 with painterly prints reflecting particular moods of the seasons, weather and time of day that lent his landscapes a convincing closeness to nature.

Kunisada, a pupil of Toyokuni who was later known as Toyokuni III, continued the portraiture tradition but with a vibrant, poster-like coloring.

Chikanobu's collection of prints titled "Shin Bijin" (True Beauty) featured Japanese women with western influences in hairstyle and dress.

Kunichika, another *ukiyo-e* master, showed kabuki actors in fashionable kimonos with a European edge.

The woodblock prints became a major inspiration in Europe for artists like Van Gogh, Monet, Degas, Klimt and many others who started a wave of "Japonism," influencing the artistic movements of Impressionism and Art Nouveau.

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   • When group members purchase load
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2. A group may only win once during the weekly raffle but may win in succeeding weekly raffles and the grand raffle.
3. If a group is drawn more than once during the weekly raffle, they will get the prize of greater value.
4. Non-winning coupons are still qualified for the succeeding weekly draws (Week 1-11). All winning and non-winning coupons are eligible for the grand draw (Week 12).
5. Each member of the winning group shall be given the corresponding prize for the draw.
6. Winners will be informed via SMS & registered mail.
7. Promo is from Oct. 23, 2006 to Jan. 28, 2007.

How to create a group:
1. To create a group text "REG<space>first name/last name/address" to 333.
   Ex. "REG Mark/Bernal/29th floor Galleria Corporate Center" send to 333
2. Sun will then reply to the group moderator and assign a group name.
3. The group moderator will then have to ask two other members to register using their assigned group name. Simply text "Join<space>Group name/First name/Last name/Address" to 333.
   Ex. "Join markb9221234567/Darvin/Sy Su/8747 Paseo de Roxas Ave. Makati" send to 333
4. Upon registration of the 3rd group member, the group will now be officially registered. Note that the 2nd and 3rd group members only have 15 days upon registration of the group moderator to register their numbers.
   a. A group should be composed of 3 members.
   b. Each member must be an active Sun Cellular subscriber.
   c. Each member must remain active for the group to exist.
   d. A subscriber cannot join multiple groups.
   e. Un-registering and deactivation of your Sun Cellular prepaid line cancels the group.
   f. Retailer SIMs are not allowed to register or join.

How to avail of raffle entries:
1. Simply load any Sun Cellular prepaid product indicated in the list to earn raffle entries.
2. To increase your chances of winning in the raffle, all you have to do is make more prepaid purchases.

Load any of the following Sun Cellular prepaid products to accumulate raffle entries:
1. Physical regular load
2. Physical unlimited call cards
3. Physical special cards
4. Dealer vouchers
5. Xpress Load regular reload
6. Xpress Load unlimited reload
7. Docking Station reload
8. IDD call card

Note: All products purchased through Convert-A-Load are excluded from the promo.

Raffle entry accumulation table:

ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF RAFFLE COUPONS EARNED
Every ₱15.00 purchase	1
Upon reaching target Achiever volume	10
2nd consecutive month on Achiever discount level	20
3rd consecutive month on Achiever discount level	30

Raffle coupon monitoring:
Subscribers can check the number of their raffle entries earned by texting "RAFFLE" to 333 free of charge.

Raffle exemptions:
- Sun employees, agencies, and suppliers up to the fourth degree of consanguinity are exempted from the raffle. However, all are allowed to join Sun Triple Treats and enjoy discounts. Their group will still earn raffle entries.
- However, if their group wins, only the non-Sun Cellular related group members can claim the prize and the remaining prizes for the group are forfeited.

List of major prizes

ITEMS	NUMBER OF WINNING GROUPS	NO. OF GROUP WINNERS	CUT-OFF DATE	DRAW DATE
iPod Nano 1G	9	3	Nov 12	Nov 14
Philips DVD Player DVP-5965	9	3	Nov 19	Nov 21
iPod Nano 4G	9	3	Nov 26	Nov 28
Canon Powershot A 430 Digital Camera	9	3	Dec 3	Dec 5
Sony Ericsson K310i 3G Cellphone	6	2	Dec 10	Dec 12
Sony Ericsson P990 3G Cellphone	6	2	Dec 17	Dec 19
Canon Mini DV Camcorder (Elura 85)	6	2	Dec 24	Dec 26
IBM Thinkcentre A52-PC	6	2	Dec 31	Jan 2
Samsung LCD 32" wide screen TV	6	2	Jan 7	Jan 9
Samsung LCD 40" w/Home Theatre System	3	1	Jan 14	Jan 16
Mazda3 1.6L S	3	1	Jan 21	Jan 23
P1 Million	3	1	Jan 28	Jan 30

- 20% tax for prizes exceeding ₱10,000.00 shall be shouldered by Digitel Mobile Philippines Inc.
- Cut-off time for raffle entries during the weekly draw will be at 11:59PM two (2) days prior to the draw date. Raffle entries submitted past 11:59PM of the cut off date will be considered for the following weekly draw.
- Should the draw date fall on a weekend/holiday, it will be rescheduled to the next working day.

Minor prizes to be raffled off per week:

ACTIVITIES	NUMBER OF WINNING GROUPS	NUMBER OF MEMBERS
Robinsons ₱500 Gift Certificate	30	90
24/7 Call & Text Unlimited 7 Days	40	120
24/7 Text Unlimited 7 Days	50	150

24/7 Call & Text Unlimited 7 days and 24/7 Text Unlimited 7 days shall be sent via SMS (soft PINS) to the winners. Robinsons Department Store Gift Certificate will be sent through courier.

See posters for more details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4182, Series of 2006.

Prizes shown may vary from actual units.

For more info, call the Sun Hotline 386-8000 or visit www.suncellular.com.ph

DIAMOND Class of '46 in their own Filipiniana number

AUSTIN Powers-meets-the-Beatles dance number by the Alabang girls

GOLDEN gi

Old girls' night out

ON THE RICHTER SCALE OF social events, last week was an earth-shattering 10 in magnitude. My social calendar was overflowing, from the Philippine Tatler's 5th Anniversary Ball to my Assumption Velada.

The much-awaited Tatler Ball is the most elegant and prestigious of all social balls, with a by-invitation-only guest list in which guests need to plan gowns and matching jewelry months ahead. As always, Tatler editor **Anton San Diego** was around to ensure that every detail was attended to.

Together with **Johnny Litton** and **Maurice Arcache**, I co-hosted the auction of a Silver Sea Cruise, with proceeds going to Operation Smile. My 15 minutes of stage fame created a scene because my stunning blue gown by fabulous designer **Rajo Laurel** was fashioned entirely out of recycled plastic bags. It's a good thing no one was smoking beside me or that would have meant the ultimate fashion flare out!

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Us Assumption girls had a blast with our Velada, even if we were older and we were girls only in spirit and attitude

Velada

The very next day was Assumption Old Girls' Day. Straight from Malacañang Palace came **PGMA** herself dressed in her classic, red plaid uniform! **Popsie Gamboa**, chair of Old Girl's Day, and I, as head of the Silver HS Batch '81, I greeted the President as she entered the chapel.

Our solemn Mass, officiated by **Fr. J. Cesar R. Marin, S.J.**, was painstakingly arranged by **Girlie Guzman-Sison**. It was so meaningful with the angelic voice of Silver girl **Anna Hortaleza-Galvez** and the symbolic homily and tearjerking reflection of Silver *balikbayan* **Monica Francisco-Benares**.

I didn't expect the fervent atmosphere to get me so teary-eyed but seeing everyone in uniform just like we were 25 years ago was so nostalgic. This Velada tradition is truly unique to the Assumption. And no Velada is complete without a Velada Show! Held at the newly renovated Mother Rose Auditorium in Assumption San Lorenzo, our show started promptly at 3 p.m. and was followed by an Encore Show at 6.

All Veladas are the product of years of hard work, mountains of fun and countless generous sponsors. Like infectious laughter, our Velada fever spread and by the time we hit the stage, our group of Silver Jubilarians was the largest ever, featuring a record 130 girls-now-women.

"Assumption ... World Class!" was the title coined by our creative director Freddie Santos. His commanding voice was powerful enough to lead 300 participating Jubilarians—Silvers, Golds, Rubies, Pearls and even Diamonds—through a Broadway-level production. The formidable Assumption education was the main theme with dances from the different countries where there are Assumption schools.

After countless days of involvement in socially relevant activities, long weeks of rehearsals, myriad months of meetings and literally, years of preparation, Assumption HS '81 had re-bonded together and that overwhelming impression was felt throughout the auditorium. We were screaming between performances in such joy and relief. Many said that they couldn't even remember what life was like before the Velada!

Flamenco

Our first dance was Flamenco, as choreographed by sexy instructress **Ginajane Grey**. We may all be women of a certain age, but with the right attitude, all of us looked like skilled dancers, with our Flam skirts swirling and all of us twirling with gusto.

Of course, we couldn't compare to the recent, impressive staging of "Carmen" by Instituto Cervantes. I had the good fortune of watching **Sara Baras**, the world's top Flam dancer, as she did "Carmen," thanks to the gracious invitation of Spanish Ambassador **Ignacio Sagaz**.

Afterwards, I was even more inspired to perfect my dancing. The awesome flowing outfits and graceful movements of the Spanish dancers were so beautiful. I am sure next year's recital of the Ginajane Grey Dance and Art Center will be visually stunning.

After our Spanish number, we covered England, Asia and, of course, the Philippines, with the still-strong ladies of Diamond '46 doing Sa Kabukiran. In the past, Diamonds had not had a chance to participate in the Velada Show, but this year, they willingly joined not just one but two shows!

Belly dancing

Months ago, I introduced the idea of belly dancing to the Golden Girls of HS Batch '56. After the initial wave of violent reactions, there were gentle suggestions of veil dancing and fully covered bellies, and then finally, they were all sold on the idea and heartily embraced the theme. With Ginajane's drum-beating guidance, the Golden Girls were one of the most loudly applauded numbers during the show.

The show's most magnificent costumes went hands-down to Ruby Class '66, who delivered a most bodacious number from Latin America. Also much applauded was a jazzy, cool number by Pearl Class '76, who added

TATLER beauties Hindy Tantoco, Malu Gamboa, Kitty Jacinto, Sea Princess, Leica Carpo and designer Rajo Laurel

VELADA choreographer Ginajane Grey, Baby Herrera, Sea Princess and Lisa Lesaca-Viola

STRUMM'S post-Velada party. Mimi de Ocampo-Huang, Macky Sibug-del Rosario, Monica Francisco-Benares, Nana Eusebio-Sham and Bingbing Javelosa-Ongsiako

BRILLIANT director Freddie Santos, Popsie Gamboa and Sandy Harper-Franklin

COMMENTATOR Girlie Guzman-Sison with Silver girls '81

BEST friends Lorvi Mapa, Jojo Reyes-Ongsiako, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Isabel Lacson, Emilie Ochoa-Petrocelli, Tessa Alindogan and Popsie Gamboa

ASSUMPTION HS '81 class photo in uniform with PGMA

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

BREAD

ACROSS
1 Actor's trophy
6 Prepare for action
14 "Danke —!"
19 Old pro
21 Pollen units
22 "You can — horse ..."
23 Neighbor of Asia
24 Region in Arizona and Utah with sandstone buttes
26 Novelist Alison
28 Nile reptiles
29 With 100-Down, combined into a single unit
30 1930s-'40s singer called "The Irish Nightingale"
34 Music-organizing gizmos
39 "No — to blame"
40 Young Sp. lady
41 Not near
42 "Oleanna" playwright David
43 CBS drama series
44 Eye part
45 One yearning for something
48 Kudrow of "Friends"
49 Good for displaying on a wall
52 Best Actor nominee for "The Pied Piper"
54 Forewarns
55 Shore or Washington
56 Sable, e.g.
57 Hero chaser?
58 Sans — (font option)
59 Gets nosy
61 Goofed
63 Peculiar
64 1942 Shirley Temple film
68 Mr. Onassis
71 "Sun," for "one"
72 Capital of Oregon
73 Less polite
77 Put turf on
78 Pt. of SPCA
79 Hotsy- —
81 At an end, informally
82 Peak in the Sierra Nevadas
85 Causes to happen
87 — extra cost
88 Irish singer O'Connor
89 Fairway club
90 "Sprechen — Deutsch?"
91 Peewees
93 IRA options
94 — cheese dressing
95 Aroma
97 Desertion of dogma
99 Exceptional fertility, figuratively
102 Poet's eye
103 AWOL
104 School VIPs
105 "A Midwinter's Tale" actor
112 Stretches of flat land
115 In progress
116 Ambiguous response
117 — Mountains (range in PA)
118 1492 ship
119 Strong joe
120 "Bread" broken in this puzzle's seven longest answers

DOWN
1 Ending of sugars
2 Erwin of films
3 "The Jerk" director
4 Rabbitlike rodent
5 Printing proofs, for short
6 Leo's studio
7 Juan's gold
8 Yellow fruit
9 Occupied
10 Like some mashed potatoes
11 Dots in "la mer"
12 Buddhist sect
13 "Guinness Book" suffix
14 Skiing race
15 Basic structural unit of a plant
16 "2001" computer
17 Keats poem
18 "No" vote
20 Bridle strap
25 Sizable tub
27 Old Ford
30 Starbucks offerings
31 Red-tagged
32 French department
33 Oz. and kg.
34 Guinea pig
35 Used as a tap
36 Estevez of Hollywood
37 Mail again
38 Lingered
41 Like a dad
44 16-oz. units
45 Was composed (of)
46 Gene component
47 City on the Seine
50 Dreadful
51 Initially
52 Outward appearance
53 Have food delivered
55 Kitchen alcoves
59 Mind readers
60 Hit into hard
62 Caviar
65 Manifests
66 Not difficult
67 Egg foo —
68 Capital of Eritrea
69 Discover by digging with the nose
70 "Beats me!"
74 Strife
75 Star, to Henri
76 Tarzan portrayer of 1960s TV
80 — roll (winning)
81 Shark part
83 Between good and terrible
84 — 500 (auto race)
85 La — Tar Pits
86 Spherical
89 Of the same — (similar)
92 Rock layers
94 Mixtures
95 Peace, in the Middle East
96 Monte Carlo locale
98 Prez associated with honesty
99 Back tooth
100 See 29-Across
101 Johnny of "Chocolat"
103 Pant
105 Atlas part
106 "Ask me — care!"
107 Hoodwink
108 Corrosive cleanser
109 Month, in Malaga
110 Printers' measures
111 "— -hoo!" ("Pssst!" alternative)
113 SSW opposite
114 Bean curd source

answer on page E3

Top Vis-Min travel a

CEBU CEBU
Jaime Picornell

NORTHWEST AIRLINES (NWA) AND ITS general sales agent, Interpacific Transit Inc. (ITI), recently awarded its top travel agents in Visayas and Mindanao.

A luncheon in their honor was given at the Marco Polo Plaza Hotel. Later they were all given the full treatment at the Chi Spa of the Shangri-La in Mactan.

NWA country manager **Todd Anderson** and communications manager **Patricia Celis** flew in from Manila, as did ITI general manager **Gina Campos**, sales manager **Jessica Pineda** and marketing manager **Mark Abastillas**.

Visayas and Mindanao district manager **Ella Mae Lim** headed the NWA-ITI Cebu staff present: **Anne Climaco, Lani Su, Tonet Cruz, Jiji Quilaton** and **Cora Ortiz**.

Collecting the top award was **Marget Villarica** of Destinations Specialists. No. 2 was **James Hannen**, president and chair of Trans Air Travel in Davao.

Other awardees were **Margaret Gaisano Ang** and **Marilou Pintor**, Grand Holidays; **Imelda Pasquil**, Pan Asia World in Davao City; **Rose Avila**, Universal Travel; **Alan Carvajal**, Travelways; **Sheila Colmenares**, Leisure Travel; **Maricor de la Peña**, House of Travel in Cagayan de Oro City; **Carlos Castelles**, Amigo Travel in Iloilo City; and **Cookie Chan**, Southwind Cebu.

Another luncheon was given for NWA's friends in media. Excellent health food was served at the exotic Mizu, the Japanese restaurant of the Waterfront Hotel. It may not have merited the presence of NWA or ITI bosses from Manila, but it was sheer fun with **Ella Mae** and the rest of the Cebu lovelies.

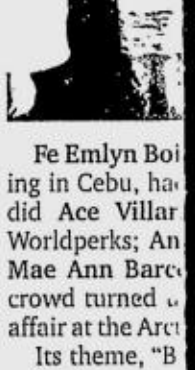
We were quite a merry bunch. After lunch, we were all put into a coaster and driven to The Spa at Cebu not too far away for whatever massage or treatment we wanted.

The owner, **Johnny Siao**, welcomed us with his characteristic affability, and showed us the entire facility. Located on the road leading to posh Maria Luisa Estate Park, The Spa at Cebu is a huge concern, with a big parking lot.

NWA's Patricia and ITI's Gina were back in no time for another, to them, grand occasion—the launch of BPI Worldperks, a comprehensive travel credit card in partnership with the Bank of the Philippine Islands. Use it and you earn travel miles. Neat!

Ma. Ysable Sylianteng, BPI senior vice president and head of the card banking group, arrived from Manila, with **Ginbee Go**, VP for marketing and sales; and suave **Anton Corro**, MasterCard's VP for operations and member relations.

THE NORTHWEST-ITI staff in Cebu: Anne Climaco, Lani Su, Ella Mae Lim, Jiji Quilaton and Tonet Cruz



Fe Emlyn Boi
ing in Cebu, ha
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Worldperks; An
Mae Ann Barc
crowd turned
affair at the Arc
Its theme, "B
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destinations—T
real models gli
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of appearance):
Philip Rodrigu
BPI and NWA
George Borona
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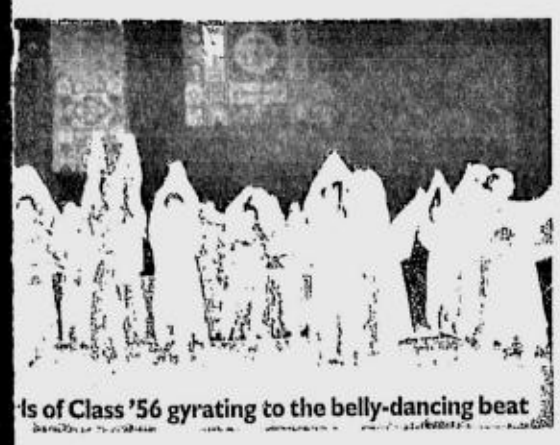
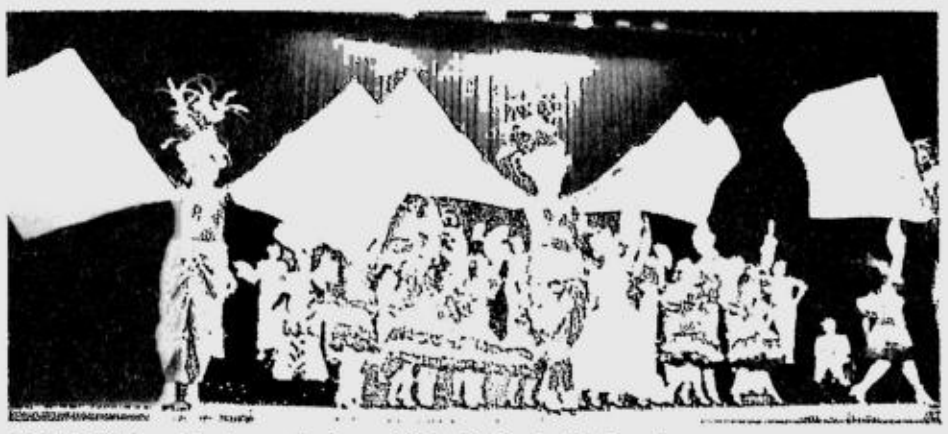


ls of Class '56 gyrating to the belly-dancing beat

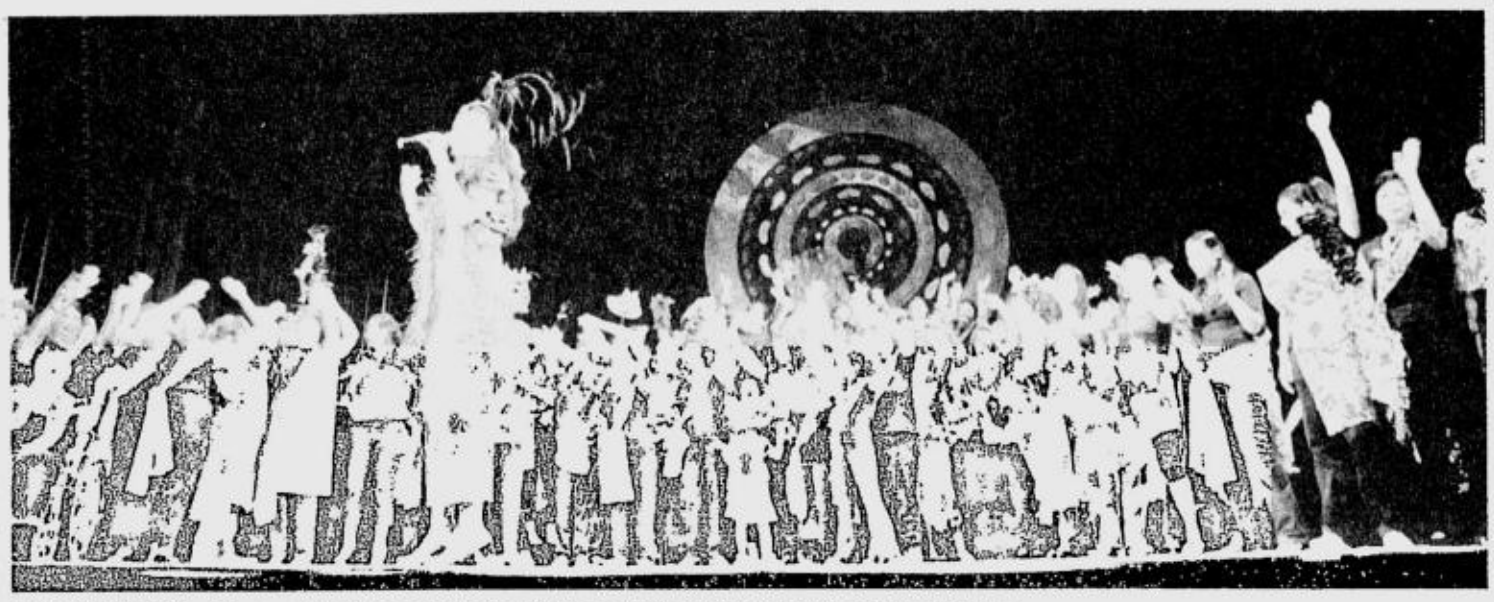


COLORFUL and lively production of Ruby '66 for Latin America

ASSUMPTION HS '81 *balikbayans* sing "Assumpta Est Maria."

JAZZY, classy "New York, New York" dance by Pearl Class '76

FLAMENCO performance of "Carmen" organized by Instituto Cervantes in cooperation with CCP



GENERATIONS of Assumptionistas celebrating "Circle of Life," with Christine Carlos as lead

CONFETTI finale of Assumption... world-class Velada

SPANISH Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz and his lovely wife Aurora

ALLIANCE Française team Sevrine Miailhe and Olivier Dintinger

CENTRO Flamenco teacher Clara Ramona

pizzazz to the show with their "New York, New York" performance.

The disco medley finale by **Sandy Hontiveros** and HS Musical dance by **Batche Tan** was most brilliant and brought the house down. With makeup by Lancôme and hair by Basement Salon, all of us Silver Stars looked fresh out of high school—well, at least in spirit and attitude!

Still on a Velada high, we all headed to Strumm's Jupiter for our after-party, featuring drinks and DJ's for us girls-once-more. The '80s live music was provided by Route 70, with **Dingdong Eduque** singing the hits of our era. More disco hits were mixed by DJ **Boyet Almaza**, who kept the dance floor full all night. Batchmate **Janine Cuenca-Dario** arranged this high-energy party.

The list of people to thank is too long but biggest thanks go to Smart Infinity, PLDT, Volvo and PDI. Generous CEO **Manny Pangilinan**, who also celebrated 25 years of First Pacific, even played badminton in one of our past, fund-raising tournaments. My mother, **Marixi Rufino-Prieto**, has been just as bighearted. It's such wonderful timing that Golden Mom and I celebrated this milestone together.

Bonded with memories of laughter, endless food, fun and camaraderie, we are all united. The time we spent to show our love for Assumption was well worth every hour! We will always look back to our Velada with unbelievable joy.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

gents feted

BPI Card Banking execs with designers and fashion icons: Angie Florentino, Ginbee Go, Fe Emlyn Bolton, Jun Escario, Teresin Mendezona, Philip Rodrigues, Amparito Lhuillier, Perl Jacalan and Mae Ann Barcena

NORTHWEST awardees Sheila Colmenares and Marget Villarica

…ron, who heads BPI Card Bank- her hands full that evening, as …za, product manager of BPI …ie Florentino, Kay de la Paz, …na and **Nadette Chua**. A chic … for the launch; a most chi-chi …e Hall of the Waterfront Hotel. …dging Borders in Style," meant … inspired by NWA's top three …kyo, Paris and New York. Ethe…d on the catwalk wearing de… Cebu's top designers (in order …**Arcy Gayatin, Jun Escario** and …

…gift items were raffled off, with … and **Maris Araneta** among the …eted NWA luggage set went to … glamorous as ever. The crowd … master of ceremonies mistook …use of her name.

…n, managing director of Adver…d Promotions (ASAP), was con…lping make the event a success. …aise for the impeccable service …eneral manager, **Marco Prota-**

Cebu City First Lady **Margot Osmeña** graced the occasion. Also there were **Amparito Lhuillier, Annie Aboitiz, Teresin Mendozona, Rosebud Sala, Den** and **Lolly Diez, Annabelle Luym, Nonie Uy, Zeny Deen** with daughters **Jackie** (Ms Roy Lotsof) and **Vanessa**.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

O	S	C	A	R	■	M	O	B	I	L	I	Z	E	■	S	C	H	O	N
S	T	A	G	E	H	■	G	R	A	N	U	L	E	S	■	L	E	A	D	A
F	U	R	O	P	E	■	M	O	N	U	M	E	N	T	■	A	L	I	F	Y
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M	O	R	T	O	N	D	O	W	N	E	Y	■	C	D	I	O	W	E	H	S
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M	O	U	N	T	W	H	I	T	N	E	Y	■	B	R	I	N	G	S	O	N
A	T	N	O	■	S	I	N	E	A	D	■	I	R	O	N	■	S	I	E	■
R	U	N	T	S	■	C	D	S	■	■	B	L	E	U	■	S	M	E	L	L
A	P	O	S	T	A	S	Y	■	M	I	L	K	A	N	D	H	O	N	E	Y
■	■	■	O	R	B	■	G	O	N	E	■	■	D	E	A	N	S	■	■	■
M	I	C	H	A	E	L	M	A	L	O	N	E	Y	■	P	L	A	I	N	S
A	F	O	O	T	■	Y	E	S	A	N	D	N	O	■	P	O	C	O	N	O
P	I	N	T	A	■	E	S	P	R	E	S	S	O	■	■	M	O	N	E	Y

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Dreaming of a lost love

DEAR EMILY,

My problem is I've been dreaming of an old boyfriend for 15 years now.

I've been married 13 years to a seaman and we have four kids. He is three years my senior and graduated from college ahead of me.

While he did his apprenticeship overseas, I fell in love with a classmate who happened to be my best friend. We promised each other to get married upon graduation but he proceeded to take up law.

Though it was my husband who proposed marriage in my first year of teaching, it was my second boyfriend whom I loved. He now has a private law practice. He's also married—but unhappily, he told me.

What bothers me is why I still dream of him after all these years. It's so unfair because I don't think of him anymore. I have heard people mention the words "soul mate" but I don't know anything about it.

Once, we saw each other after 10 years and I felt the love and pain he felt because it was I who was not true to our promise to each other.

If there are really soul mates, is he the one for me? How about my husband?

I am confused and have been troubled these many years.

TROUBLED WIFE

Emily's Post

Emily A. Marcelo

What should trouble and confuse you is if this second boyfriend that you've been dreaming of for 15 years actually hounds you with offers to either have an affair or live with you.

No mention of that in your letter. Who is being unfair to whom? Were you talking about fate being unfair in making you dream of him?

You may have been soul mates in college, but you have no connection now except these memories of him from the past.

You're blaming yourself for not keeping your word, but did he actually propose marriage again after your verbal promise to do so in college?

College romances are usually made of soapsuds and built on shifting sands. Real life is more complex than that.

You talk of being unfair? Look no further. Your first boyfriend had no inkling you'd shifted gears while he was apprenticing abroad.

You chose him over your second boyfriend because he was probably more serious in marrying you. Now that he's again far away trying to make your family's life better, here you are feeling so unhappy with your lot.

Something at the back of your mind is making you dream of your boyfriend.

Your loneliness has perhaps become set in massive concrete as a result of your long separation from your absentee husband.

Marriage is founded on constancy, intimacy, routine, and the ups and downs of daily living. This "once-in-a-while" bond in your marriage has left you vulnerable and wanting for something.

Your husband may be providing the material comforts of your family, but you both did not factor in the psychological downside of long separations.

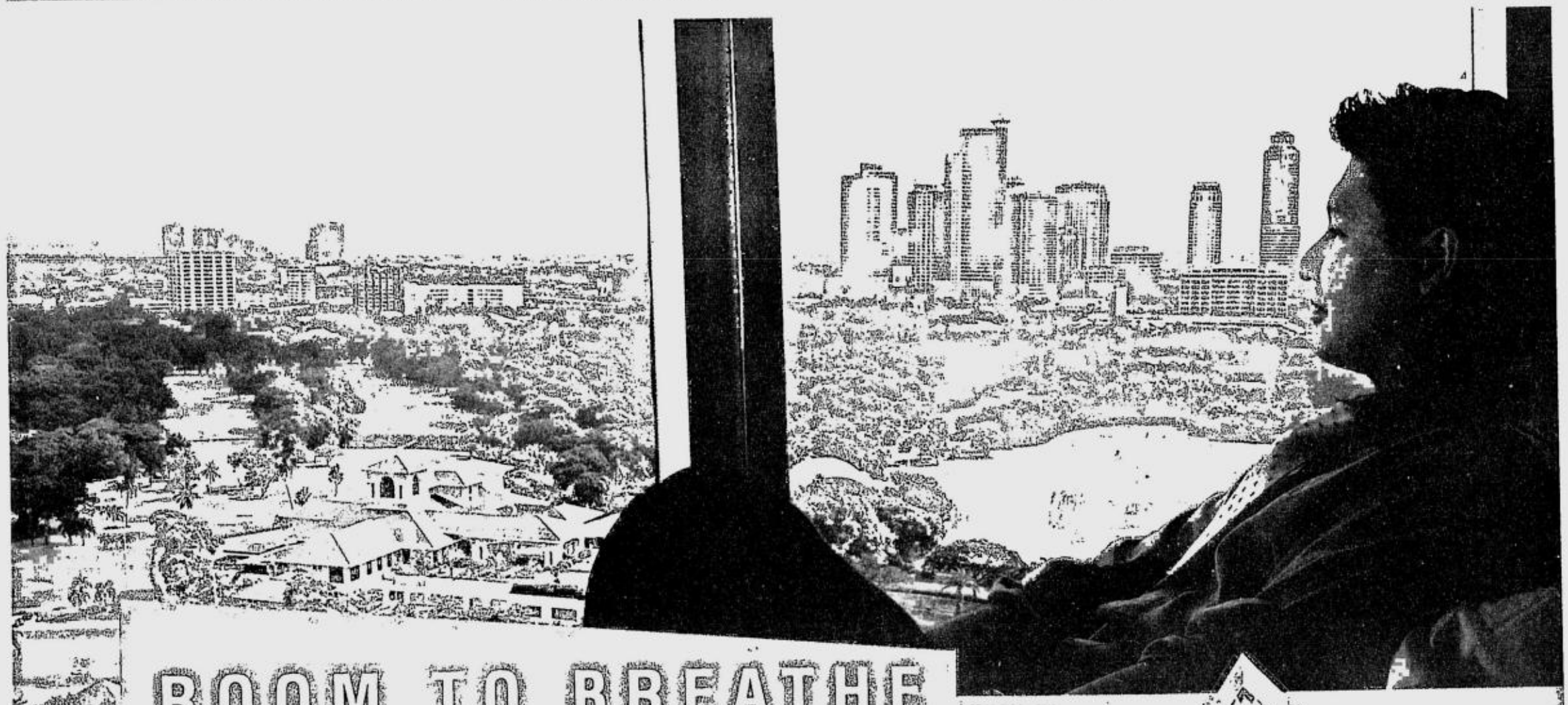
What was the longest time you've spent with your husband? Two months? Six months? A year? Your name probably has more letters than the days you two have spent together in this marriage.

This "soul mate" on whom you poured your dreams and hopes has remained the single being you believe understands you most because your husband hardly knows you.

You and your husband have to discuss whether you've already accomplished your material goals and must decide when you two will start building your emotional relationship once more. This integral part of your marriage has been put in the back burner for so long and, rest assured, it has not only affected you but everyone in this family as well.

Money is good, fantastic and wonderful. It can buy this, that, and everything. But money doesn't have arms to wrap around you when you need to be cuddled. This is what's bugging you and this is what you have to resolve. Isn't it such a pain that you can't have it all?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM



SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 22, 2006

PHILI Y INQUIRER

Sunda LIFESTYLE

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MARGA and Jeff Blake

Love defies distance

THOSE WHO SAY LONG-DISTance relationships don't work only have to look at Jeff Blake and Marga Garcia-Morera to know that it can.

Since meeting in December of 2002 when Marga visited her family in Spain, the couple spent most of their three-and-a-half-year relationship thousands of miles apart.

They managed to keep the flame of love burning, however, through daily, if expensive, phone calls and regular e-mail. In the Philippines before she left to study for her master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) in Boston, he proposed to her under a moonlit sky at a beach in Montemar.

With Bishop Teodoro Bacani and Fr. Antonio Rosales officiating, the wedding was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Tagaytay City.

The bride and entourage were elegant in gowns by Inno Sotto.

LOVE/ F2

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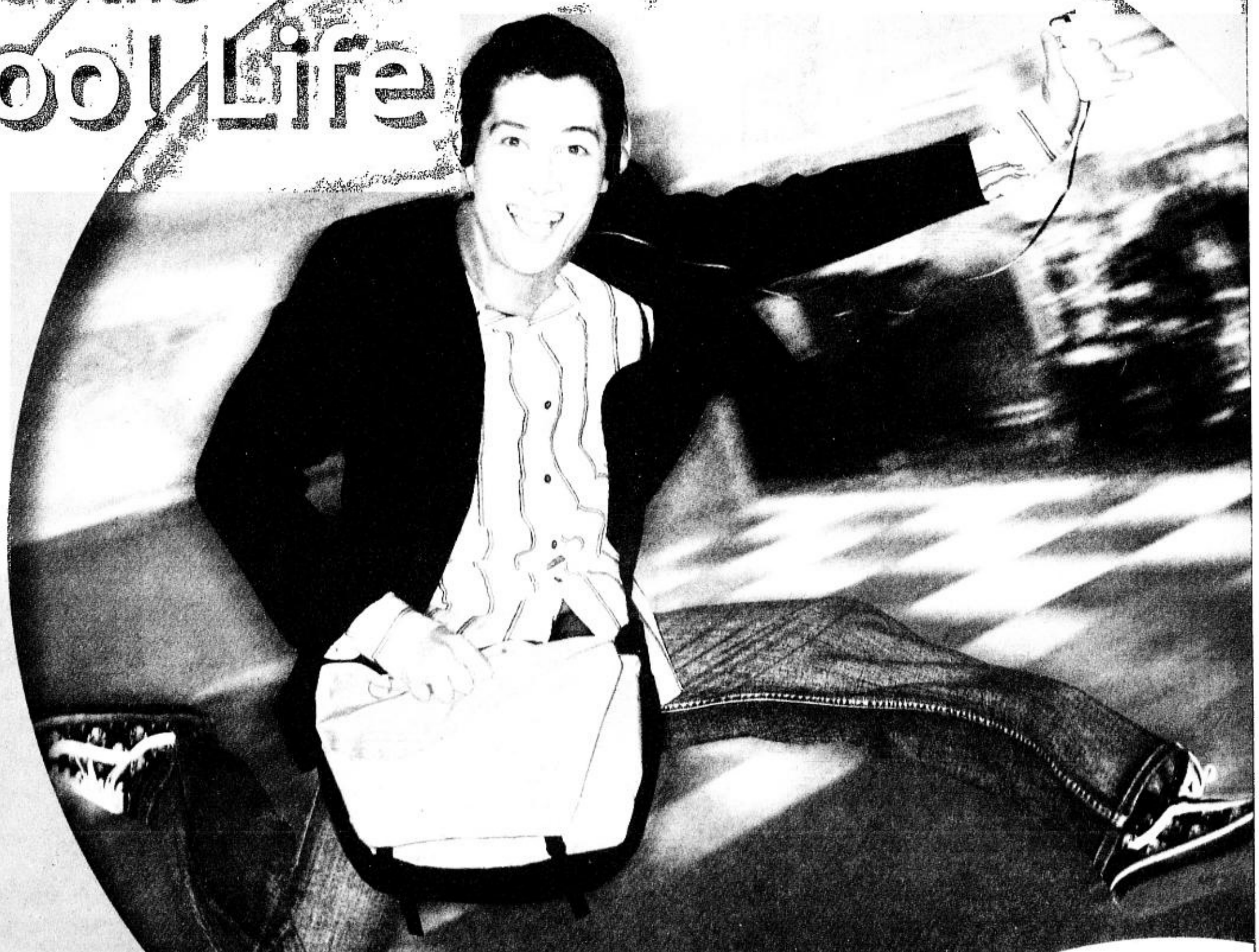

SHOPWISE Supercenters

Love defies distance

From page F1

The groom is the son of Lawrence and Jackie Blake. He runs a call center, Infonxx, in RCBC Plaza. The bride is the daughter of Pablo and Marilou Garcia-Morera.

Reception followed at Taal Vista Hotel. A very international guest list (representing over 15 countries and five continents) enjoyed Spanish cuisine, including *jamon serrano* and other delicacies for cocktails. Marques de Carrion Crianza wine flowed the whole night.

Jun Hen transformed the hotel's ballroom into an elegant display of Filipiniana with strands of *sampaguita* hanging from the ceiling. Table settings featured a variety of whites and greens. Guests later danced to the music of Acoustic Jive and DJ Patch.

Following the wedding, the newlyweds flew to Maui in Hawaii for an island honeymoon.

WITH the Garcia-Morera family: Marta, Marilou, Pablo and Pocholo

WITH the groom's parents, Jackie and Larry Blake

EMILIO and Margarita Vicens of Union Fenosa, Marilou Garcia-Morera, Alicia Ranz from Madrid and Pinky Manzano

WITH friends and cousins (from left, back row): Pocholo Garcia-Morera, Daniela Laurel, Chachi Salonga, Paolo Pineda, John Bautista, Pat Pastelero, Virginia, Pepe Vicente, Chini Salonga, Minelli Bautista, Jacqui Halili-Co and Fatima Vicente

WITH Lisa Enriquez, Evelyn Yu, Ely Barretto, Marilou Garcia-Morera and Ray Barretto

WITH Bishop Teodoro Bacani and Fr. Antonio Rosales

GABBY and Maritess Panlilio, Marilou Garcia-Morera, Marga Blake, Mabel Abaño, Lisa Abaño, Joey Abaño

ANA Vicente, Mia Peynera, Sonia Garcia and Lisa Abaño, the bride's cousins from Spain and Manila

THE COUPLE with the bride's grandfather, Demetrio Bautista, who passed away a month after the wedding

JAVIER Galvan, director of Instituto Cervantes; Margarita Vicens, Maria de Miguel, Marilou Garcia-Morera, Emilio de Miguel, Spanish consul in Bangkok; Pablo Garcia-Morera, Alfredo Roca of Fuego Properties; (seated) Manuel Valenzuela, José Miguel Cortes, Spanish commercial attache, with wife Esther, and Benigno Fernandez

Garden show and bazaar

THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT Society of the Philippines is holding a garden and pet show cum Christmas bazaar Nov. 10-20 at the sunken garden of Quezon City Hall corner East Avenue and Elliptical Circle, Quezon City.

Meanwhile, the Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Davao held recently a seminar-workshop on Shoka and Rikka styles in preparation for its participation Nov. 1-3 in the Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Floral Art in Kyoto, Japan. Professor Serapion S. Metilla was instructor of the three-day workshop at BioEssence Davao.

BEST-IN-SHOW BOOTH
The Philippine Horticultural Society headed by P.J. Nepomuceno held recently its First Fern and Aroid Show, a project of the study group chaired by Nanding Aurigue. Guest Amb. Preciosa Soliven (second from left) is shown with members of the group that won Best Booth: Fely Gupit, Dorie Bernabe, Serapion S. Metilla, who executed the landscape; and Mody Manglicmot, whose Davallia won the Best Plant in Show.

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HAW-CO

Kerwin C. Haw, son of **George** and **Connie Haw**, and **Abigail Beatrice S. Co**, daughter of **Anthony** and **Ada Co**, will exchange vows at 9 a.m., Oct. 29, at San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception will be at the Isla Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Bridal gown was designed by **Larry Espinosa**.

FERROLINO-MAJARUCON

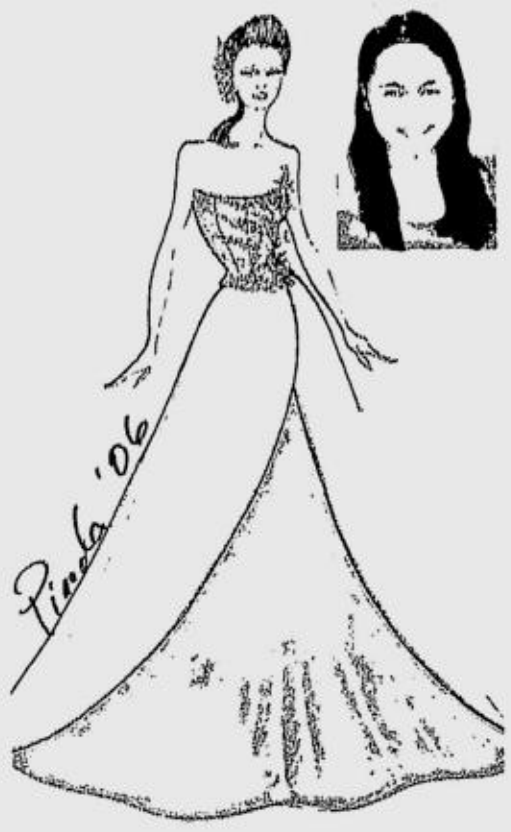
Dr. **Arthur M. Ferrolino**, son of **Clotildo** and **Felicita Ferrolino** of Zamboanga Sibugay, will wed Dr. **Marigold R. Majarucon**, daughter of **Noli** and **Elsie Majarucon** of Negros Occidental, in a garden ceremony on Oct. 27 at the Courtyard Garden, Fernwood 1, QC. Rev. **Don D. Cua** will officiate. Reception follows in the same venue.

MANALO DEBUT

Hanna Florentyna Tales Manalo, daughter of **Ronald** and **Remedios Manalo** of Oriental Mindoro, celebrated her 18th birthday last Aug. 8, at Plaza Ibarra, 77 South Timog Ave., QC.

OGENA-JARDELEZA

Patrick Ogena, son of Mr. and Ms **Perfecto Ogena** of Virac, Catanduanes and **Malen Jardeleza**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Emmanuel Jardeleza**, Jr. will exchange vows on Oct. 28, 3 p.m. at the Sanctuario de San Jose, East Greenhills, Mandaluyong. Reception will follow at the Oasis Restaurant at Aurora Boulevard, San Juan, Metro Manila.



RAGAS DEBUT

Jo Anne Ragas, daughter of **Vicente** and **Josefina Ragas** will celebrate her 18th birthday with a dinner dance party on Oct. 28. **Eric Pineda** designed the debutante's gown using saffron-colored dupione silk and chiffon georgette. The corset top is embellished with feather-cut organdy petals and sprinkled with iridiscent pailletes, caviar beads and rhinestones.

GROLEAU-ROMERO

Francios-Xavier Julien Michel Groleau, son of **Pierre** and **Marie-Madeleine Groleau**, will wed **Rosanele Villanueva Romero**, daughter of Dr. **Segundo** and **Elena Villanueva Romero** on Oct. 28 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. The bride's uncle, Bishop **Oscar Azarcon Solis**, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, USA, will celebrate the nuptial mass. Reception will follow at the Hyatt Regency, Manila. **Veluz Ramos** designed the bridal gown.

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How Tia Carrere stole the show at the Filipino American Library

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

APL.DE.AP is a class act.

TIA CARRERE pops a vocal surprise.

PHOTOS BY JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

LOS ANGELES—THE PHILIPPINES is officially in.

We just received the list of official entries to the Best Foreign Language Film for the 79th Academy Awards and boy, were we glad to see that the Philippines has an entry—"Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros (The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros)"—this time around. Last year, the Film Academy of the Philippines failed to submit an entry.

There is a controversy over a film submission from Finland. The Academy reported that Finland submitted **Aki Kaurismaki**'s "Lights in the Dusk," which "the director subsequently indicated he wanted to withdraw from the competition. Foreign Language committee chair **Mark Johnson** has initiated a dialogue with Kaurismaki in an effort to persuade him to reverse that decision." Aki boycotted the 2003 Oscars because of his opposition to the war in Iraq.

The Philippines' "Maxi," directed by **Auraeus Solito**, faces competition from 60 countries, including the following (we also listed the director of each entry): Canada, "Water," Deepa Mehta; China, "Curse of the Golden Flower," Zhang Yimou; Denmark, "After the Wedding," Susanne Bier; France, "Avenue Montaigne," Daniele Thompson; India, "Rang De Basanti," Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra; Italy, "Golden Door," Emanuele Crialese; Mexico, "Pan's Labyrinth," Guillermo del Toro; The Netherlands, "Black Book," Paul Verhoeven; and Spain, "Volver," Pedro Almodovar.

Fil Am Library fundraiser

Allan Pineda Lindo, a.k.a. Apl.de.Ap of the Black Eyed Peas, may have been the most popular honoree at the recent dinner gala of the Filipino American Library but it was actress **Tia Carrere** who stole the show and delivered a pleasant surprise.

Tia, finale performer at the annual fundraiser for the Library which houses over 5,000 titles of Filipiniana and Fil-Americana at its Los Angeles location, displayed her singing talent for the first time in a major event. We have read about the Hawaii-born actress' songstress aspirations before but last weekend's benefit at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown LA was our first exposure to Tia the chanteuse.

Accompanied solely by pianist **Daniel Ho**, the actress surprised us with her relaxed, winsome rendition of two standards, "I've Got a Crush on You" and "Someone to Watch Over Me," and a song that she and Daniel composed. Tia can put to shame some professional singers. Being an actress, she used vocal intonation and nuance, projection and subtle gestures to enhance her performance. Looking lovely and slimmer from her "Dancing with the Stars" run, Tia—should she decide to pursue singing—has great potential to have a wonderful second career. We'd love to see her in an intimate venue, perhaps as a cabaret or a lounge act.

By the way, Tia reacted this way when "professional ballroom dancer" was included in her introduction: "I was not and will never be a professional ballroom dancer."

Also performing were singer **Stephanie Reese** and Three of a Kind—they should probably rename themselves as Four of a Kind now with the exciting addition of **Lara Avengoza** to the group's impeccably voiced regular singers, **Gelo Francisco, Annie Nepomuceno** and **Bonifacio "Bones" Deoso Jr.**

Apl, the night's Role Model Awardee, was a class act, accessible to everyone, with no frowning bodyguards to block anyone wishing to have a photo with him. "I hope you enjoyed the chicken *adobo*," was how he began his acceptance speech. LA's venerable Biltmore (the founding banquet of the Academy Awards was held here; in fact, the concept and design for the Oscar was drawn on the hotel's dinner napkin) did serve chicken *adobo* to the guests.

Earning a standing ovation, Apl touchingly thanked several important people in his life. In dedicating the award to his adoptive father, **Joe Ben Hudgens**, who was in the audience, he said, "I love you, dad. I appreciate what you did. Because I've been a bad boy."

The Sapang Bato, Angeles City native also thanked his biological mother, **Cristina Pineda**, who was also present. He lovingly asked her not to feel guilty about giving him up for adoption. He cited his mom "for letting him have a better future" and added, "I love you. Don't feel bad. It was both our decision for me to leave."

To the audience, Apl remarked, "Thank you for embracing me as a Filipino-American."

The other awardees were ABS-CBN Global, Ltd. for community building journalism (CEO **Rafael Lopez** accepted the award); **John Chiang**, the highest-ranking Asian-American government officeholder in California, for public service; the Filipino American Service Group Inc. for community service; and Washington Mutual for corporate

HOW TIA/ G2

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How Tia Carrere stole the show . . .

From page G1

philanthropy.

In her remarks, board chair **Rose Ibanez** touted the library's aim to preserve its impressive collection of titles "for generations to come."

Board president **John Mina**, who was attending to a thousand and one details all evening but somehow managed to make personal interaction with many of the guests, listed the library's recent accomplishments in the program: "We have added to the library's collection; brought back ... literary talks, career forums and community lectures; conducted bus tours of Historic Filipinotown; and showcased a book collection at our first museum exhibition."

Helen Agcaoili Summers Brown, 91, stood up to acknowledge the hearty applause for starting the library in 1985 as her gift to the Fil-Am community. Board member **Bernardo Bernardo**, resplendent in a Barge Ramos *barong*, eagerly told us about his plan to form a theater group for and by Asian actors. The actor has been a fun, welcome addition to the Pinoy scene in LA.

Taking it all in like a proud father was **Fritz Friedman**, senior vice president for worldwide publicity of Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, who is now the library's board chairperson emeritus. Fritz's drive is one of the reasons why this annual fundraiser is always a success (this is one Fil-Am event we make sure not to miss).

Becca Godinez, whose husband, active community leader **Benito Miranda** serves on the Library's board of advisors, proudly told us about the latest on **Natasha**, her daughter with **Morris Albert**. Natasha has two passions—theater and film makeup and singing—and we're sure she has a bright future in both.

Other celebrities who graced the occasion were TV's **Denise Dador** and **Janelle So**; **Angela Perez Baraquio Grey**, the first ever Miss America of Filipino heritage; actors **Michael Copon** and **Raymond Bagatsing**; "American Idol" finalist **Camile Velasco**; Fil-Am filmmaker **David Maquiling**; and publicist **Winston Emano** with two "hot dates," beauty queen **Karen Borja**, an assistant producer of "America's Next Top Model," and singer-songwriter **Jennilee Reyes**, one of those statuesque models on **Howie Mandel**'s hit game show, "Deal or No Deal."

THREE OF A KIND plus Lara Avengoza (in red)

Congratulations to the library and its staff, which includes **Jonathan Lorenzo** and **Edward J. Mallillin**, and the gala's director, Ted Benito, for another successful affair.

Ashton on Demi

From our Toronto International Film Festival files: We promised earlier to write a longer piece on our interview with **Ashton Kutcher** in our recent trip to Canada's media capital.

The star voice talent behind "Open Season," Sony Pictures Animation's first-ever feature film, was open about his romance with actress **Demi Moore**. "What Demi does for me is endless," gushed the actor in between sips from a cup of Starbucks coffee. "In my work, she supports me in the sense that if I go off to work on a film, we'll try to stay with each other. We don't spend more than a week apart from each other. Like she's here with me now."

One of the best-dressed young actors (cuff links on his dress shirt is a fashion detail you rarely see on his peers), Ashton claimed that he does the same when it's Demi's turn to work—he tries to be there for her. He admitted though, "It's really difficult for me to be not working."

Proclaiming that he wants to keep his "newlywed" passion (he and Demi celebrated their first wedding anniversary last month), the actor exulted about another facet of his well-known wife: "She teaches me something every day. I couldn't possibly begin to explain."

The subject of "guarding" Demi's three daughters with Bruce Willis perked him up. "Oh man, you don't want to know!" he exclaimed to laughter from our press group. He is close to the girls (and happily, in an interesting Hollywood twist, he is in good terms with Bruce).

The stepfather half-seriously bemoaned, "All three are now at the boy stage. It's bad news. It's the most difficult task in my entire life. Because I don't trust any of these guys at all!"

Imagine boys knocking on the girls' house door and having to deal with Ashton. "They come to the door and you have that exchange with them," he said. "And it's never enough. Like there's no guy on earth that's good enough to be with these girls."

In "Open Season," Ashton is the voice of Elliot, a one-

HOW TIA/ G4

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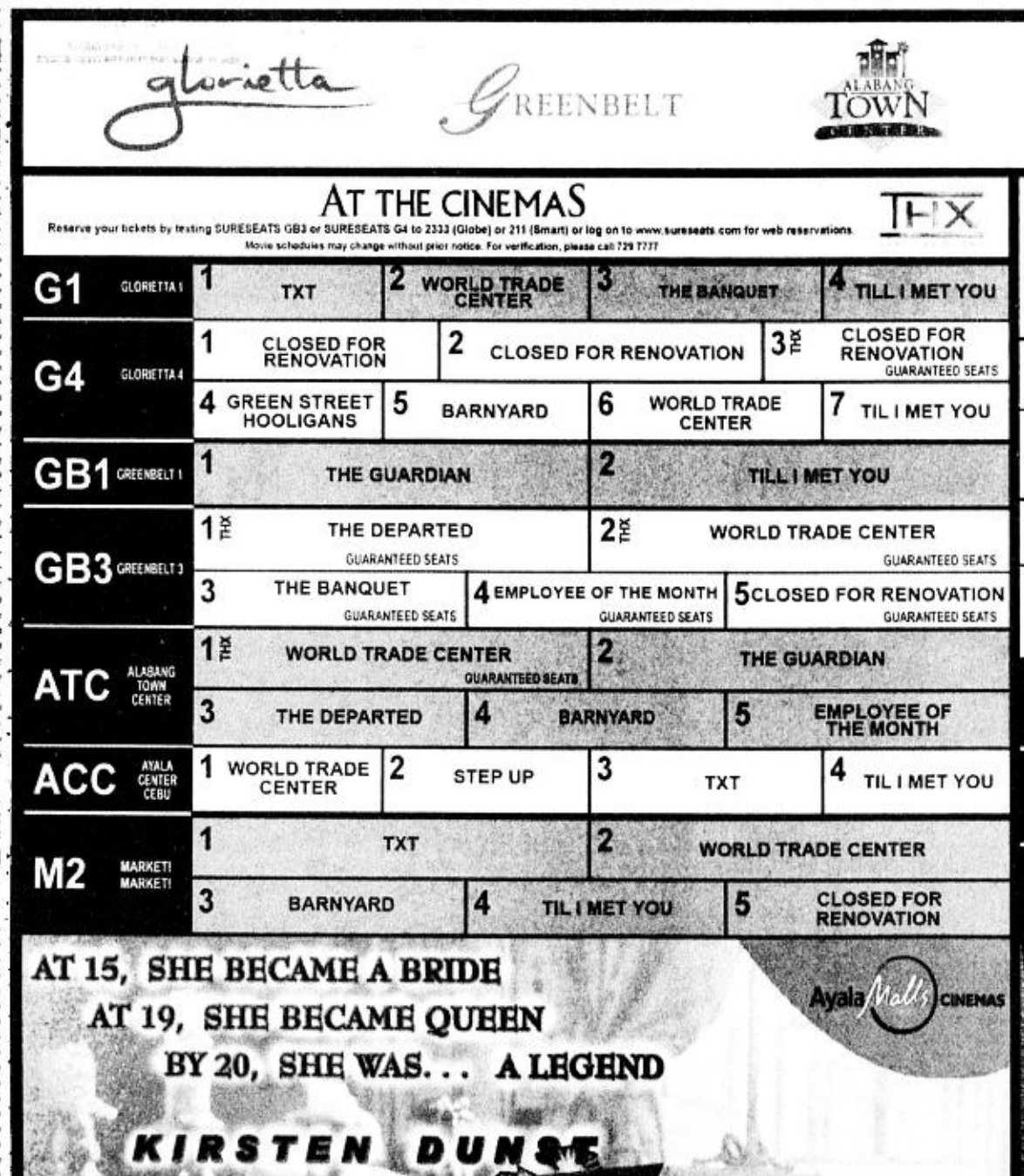

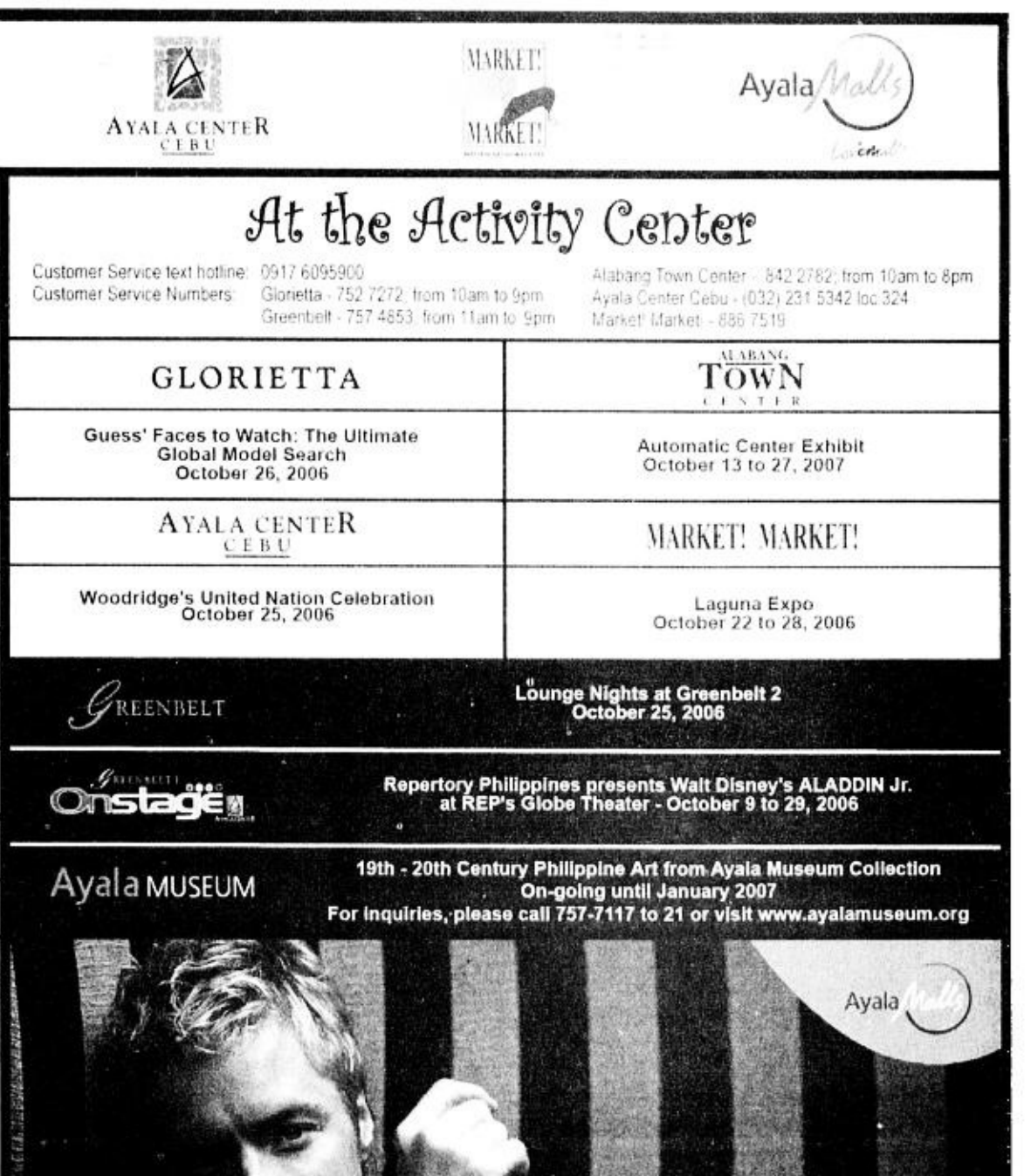

Costner and Kutcher work well together

"THE GUARDIAN" IS A WELL-INtentioned film about the US Coast Guard's rescue swimmers, who lay their lives on the line every time they set out to save drowning sailors or water sportsmen in the briny deep.

It focuses its tale of "everyday heroism" on a veteran swimming legend, Randall (**Kevin Costner**), who finds himself in a particularly dark period in his life. To compensate for his personal troubles, he teaches a class of new recruits led by a phenomenal young swimmer, Fisher (**Ashton Kutcher**).

As thematic underscoring would have it, Fisher is battling personal demons of his own, so he and his veteran trainer are well-matched.

KEVIN COSTNER and Ashton Kutcher in "The Guardian"

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Perhaps this is why Randall bears down so hard on the swimming champion. He senses the young man's egotism will stand in the way of a potentially heroic career, so he does everything he can to tear down Fisher's wall of cynicism and self-centeredness.

In the end, he succeeds. Fisher turns out to be such a superlative graduate that Randall handpicks him to work with him in Kodiak, Alaska, to rescue people from drowning in the dark and dangerously tumultuous Bering Sea.

At this point, an ironic note is struck when the student proves himself to be even more courageous than his illustrious teacher.

Weighed down by past traumas, Randall balks momentarily during a risky rescue attempt, and Fisher has to take charge.

Later, of course, Randall evens up the score by rescuing Fisher from the bowels of a sinking ship. And, just before the film's final fade, he performs an even more heroic act of self-abnegation that adds to his legendary status in a major way.

So far, so inspirational. Trouble is, the film makes its thematic points too slowly and predictably, so the viewer pretty much knows how it'll end up.

The training scenes are also too detailed in presentation, and takes time away from the second half of the movie, which deals with post-graduation tests and challenges in the "real" world.

As a result, the actual challenges are too few and are presented too sketchily to impinge strongly on viewers' emotions.

On point of performance, Ashton Kutcher succeeds in making the transition from romantic comedy lead to action hero. Only occasionally does he still make use of the cute or hangdog expressions that have served him so well in the rom-com mode.

We also admire the young actor for agreeing to be subjected to so many physical tests while shooting the movie's training scenes. To be sure, the film's closing credits admit that he had two body doubles, but he still had his share of physical wear-and-tear.

For his part, Kevin Costner impresses with his most mature portrayal to date. He doesn't hide his age, and the more mature character he plays enables him to come up with a deeper portrayal than usual.

Despite their best efforts, however, this movie's leads can't make up for the production's slowness and predictability. Still, viewers who want to be inspired will find this film effective in that regard, albeit in a standard way.

Brisk sales

SARAH Geronimo's latest album, "Becoming," has sold an average of 1,000 CDs in every mall the singer has visited, making it one of the fastest-selling albums by a local artist this year.

ROUNDUP

Alien invasion

Cult British comic radio dramatist and author Douglas Adam's film version of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," based on his five-book series, is a funny and creative ride through a bizarre universe.

Author Dent (Martin Freeman) is having a very bad day. When his house is about to be bulldozed, he discovers that his best friend (Dante "Mos Def" Smith) is an alien and planet earth is about to be demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass.

The movie airs today and tomorrow, 9 p.m. on Star Movies.

Top model marathon

Tyra Banks and her panel of flamboyant judges entertain viewers with "America's Next Top Model Marathons" on Channel [V].

Each week, the competitors slug it out in a series of games, modeling activities and physical shoots.

As Tyra and the judges test them on their ability to adapt, outshine and outlast each other, the girls learn that they have to strive to survive elimination and earn the coveted title.

Air dates are today and on Oct. 29, 5 p.m. and on Oct. 28, 1 p.m.

Siargao adventure

Today on "Gameplan," Paolo Soler tours Siargao island along with guest correspondent and viewer Maan Samson.

Paolo checks the waters and waves of Cloud 9, one of the island's top attractions owing to its perfect right hand tubes, while educating Maan on the finer points of surfing.

The Crystal Caves, the Sohoton Cove and the Bucas Grande filled up the itinerary of the two adventure seekers.

The episode airs at 1:30 p.m. on Studio 23.

'300' trailer

The trailer of Warner Bros.' new action-adventure "300" will premiere in local theaters as an added attraction to "The Prestige," which opens on Oct. 25.

Directed by Zack Snyder, "300" stars Gerard Butler, Lena Headey, David Wenham, Rodrigo Santoro and Dominic West.

Based on the popular epic graphic novel by Frank Miller, the movie is a retelling of the ancient Battle of Thermopylae in which King Leonidas (Gerard Butler) and 300 Spartans fought to death against Xerxes and his massive Persian army.

'Gandang Regalo'

Ricky Reyes thanks loyal patrons by offering "Gandang Regalo," which offers free hair color for every hair rebonding service.

Stars like Ruffa Gutierrez and Pops Fernandez, Ricky Reyes girls, swear by the effectiveness of the twin procedures.

The offer is available at all 38 branches of Ricky Reyes salons.

Magic on video

"MasterMind: The Magic of Erik Mana" video takes viewers to the darker realms of the unexplainable—exploring the mysteries of supernatural forces, mind manipulation and more shocking new magic never before performed.

Special features include The Mirror and the Lucky Card, Wired Repeat, Bahay na Pula and the Erik Mana Biography.

The video is available on DVD at P299 and on VCD at P199.

PNB

JOINT PROPERTY AUCTION

ALLIED BANK

OCTOBER 26, 2006 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • SARABIA MANOR HOTEL, 101 General Luna St., Iloilo City

AJUAN

ITEM 1 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 385.00 sqm.
Lot 1395-D-1 Interior Lot W/ No Rd Right Of Way Estancia
Market Value: 270,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 189,000.00

ITEM 2 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 935.00 sqm.
Lot 1395-C Mun Rd Estancia
Market Value: 1,309,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,048,000.00

BANGA

ITEM 3 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 705.00 sqm.
Lot 3073 Ra Right Of Way Mambog
Market Value: 367,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 294,000.00

KALIBO

ITEM 4 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 7,584.00 sqm.
L2076-A-1 Brgy. Rd Bachao Sur
Market Value: 4,610,400.00
Minimum Bid Price : 3,228,000.00

ANTIQUE

ITEM 5 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 419.00 sqm.
Lot 10084 Provincial Rd. Brgy. Alabay, Tobias Fornier
Market Value: 125,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 120,000.00

ITEM 6 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 1,145.00 sqm.
Lot 235 Mun. Rd Brgy. Calag-itan, San Remigio
Market Value: 286,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 244,000.00

ITEM 7 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 4,054.00 sqm.
Lot 1539 Bagumbayan St. Subd. Rd Agumbayan St. Cor Subd Rd Brgy. 8, San Jose
Market Value: 5,351,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 4,014,000.00

ITEM 8 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 256.00 sqm.
Lot-218 Tabaque St.,Calag-itan, San Remigio
Market Value: 64,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 58,000.00

ITEM 9 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 992.56 sqm.
Lot4-A-3 Rd Right Way
Brgy.Funda-Dalipe, San Jose
Market Value: 556,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 445,000.00

ITEM 10 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 2,957.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 155.00 sqm.
Lot-1-A Rd Right Of Way Int. Lot Near Cardona St. Brgy 5.San Jose
Market Value: 4,260,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 2,982,000.00

ITEM 11 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 650.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 190.00 sqm.
Lot-1494-A R/R Of Way Del Pilar St.Brgy.8, San Jose
Market Value: 1,668,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,335,000.00

ITEM 12 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area: 6,448.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 185.00 sqm.
Lot-364-K Democracia St.,Brgy.San Pedro, San Jose
Market Value: 2,184,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,529,000.00

ITEM 13 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 421.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 135.00 sqm.
Lot 2492 Nat'L Rd Brgy. Villallor, Tobias Fornier
Market Value: 351,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 320,000.00

ITEM 14 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 3,094.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 86.00 sqm.
Lot 2891 Nat'L Rd
Brgy Dumreg,Pandan
Market Value: 1,038,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 727,000.00

ITEM 15 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 1,116.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 242.00 sqm.
Lot-306-A & 297-A Nat'L Rd 306 & Nat'L Rd 297
Poblacion, Belison
Market Value: 1,151,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 806,000.00

ITEM 16 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 186,195.00 sqm.
Lot 8295, Brgy. Bangbongan 2Nd. Hamtic
Market Value: 549,292.50
Minimum Bid Price : 412,000.00

ITEM 17 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 670.00 sqm.
Lot- 1381-B-1-A-2 Princesa St., Brgy.3.San Jose
Market Value: 536,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 430,000.00

ITEM 18 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,637.00 sqm.
Lot 420.419& 418 Old Provincial Brgy. Nasuli, San Remigio
Market Value: 196,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 157,000.00

ITEM 19 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 40,516.00 sqm.
Lot-7077T.A. Fornier St.M San Jose
Market Value: 234,054.00
Minimum Bid Price : 176,000.00

ITEM 20 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 3,351.00 sqm.
Lot 10154 Provl. Rd Brgy Alabay, Tobias Fornier
Market Value: 445,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 423,000.00

ITEM 21 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 13,736.00 sqm.
Lot 4374 Brgy Esperanza-h Sibalom T.A. Fornier St.
San Jose
Market Value: 69,340.00
Minimum Bid Price : 53,000.00

ITEM 22 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 2,000.00 sqm.
Lot-2-J-D-I-A Subd Rd Brgy Bantayan, San Jose
Market Value: 1,400,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,120,000.00

ITEM 23 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 246.00 sqm.
Lot 1755-B Iglesias St. San Jose
Market Value: 686,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 709,000.00

CAPIZ

ITEM 24 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 37,092.00 sqm.
Lot 3180-E Brgy. Aganan, Dao
Market Value: 111,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 89,000.00

ITEM 25 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 35,543.00 sqm.
Lot 321 Sitio Tagobong, Brgy Bungsu-An, Dumarao
Market Value: 131,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 105,000.00

ITEM 26 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 43,505.00 sqm.
Lot 8 Brgy. Dacuton, Dumarao
Market Value: 187,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 150,000.00

ITEM 27 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 39,350.00 sqm.
Lot E Dacuton, Dumarao
Market Value: 193,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 155,000.00

ITEM 28 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,429.00 sqm.
Lot 247-B-2-B-1-K Poblacion Tacas, Pontevedra
Market Value: 572,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 458,000.00

ITEM 29 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 113,088.00 sqm.
Lot 865 Brgy. Banate, Pontevedra
Market Value: 699,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 483,000.00

ITEM 30 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 5,000.00 sqm.
Lot 247-B-5-A-1 Pontevedra
Market Value: 50,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 40,000.00

ITEM 31 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 3,798.00 sqm.
Lot 247-B-5-A-2 Pontevedra
Market Value: 37,980.00
Minimum Bid Price : 31,000.00

ITEM 32 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 5,000.00 sqm.
Lot 247-B-5-A-3 Pontevedra
Market Value: 50,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 40,000.00

ILOILO

ITEM 33 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 25,672.00 sqm.
Cad-2822 Brgy Wright, Tapaz
Market Value: 110,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 88,000.00

NEGROS OCC.

ITEM 34 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 270.00 sqm.
Lot 494-A Near Legaspi St., Brgy. Legaspi
Market Value: 405,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 305,000.00

ITEM 35 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 720.00 sqm.
Lot 780-A-1-B-5-C, Brgy Sto. Niño Sur, Arevalo
Market Value: 218,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 153,000.00

ITEM 36 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 746.00 sqm.
L4304-D, Brgy. Molo Blvd., Molo
Market Value: 522,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 314,000.00

ITEM 37 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 2,436.00 sqm.
L4304-B, Brgy. Molo Blvd., Molo
Market Value: 1,705,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,023,000.00

ITEM 38 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 1,344.00 sqm.
Lot 682 Nat'L Rd Brgy. Glines
Market Value: 1,075,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 860,000.00

ITEM 39 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area: 237.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 100.00 sqm.
Lot - 1, Blk. 5 Rd. Lot, Dayot Subd., Brgy. Dawis, Dingle
Market Value: 330,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 264,000.00

ITEM 40 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 2,304.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 45.00 sqm.
Lot-1721-A Brgy. Rd Brgy Lanag St. Leon
Market Value: 1,398,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,119,000.00

ITEM 41 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area: 2,775.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 72.00 sqm.
Lot-1639 Brgy. Lanag, Leon
Market Value: 1,781,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,425,000.00

ITEM 42 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 1,355.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 182.00 sqm.
Lot 7265-A Plegata St., Poblacion,Bingawan
Market Value: 1,706,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,365,000.00

ITEM 43 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 3,414.00 sqm.
Lot 704 Brgy. Rd. Brgy. Monpon, Dueñas
Market Value: 512,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 384,000.00

ITEM 44 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 2,848.00 sqm.
Lot 186 Ariola St., Carles
Market Value: 874,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 656,000.00

ITEM 45 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 889.00 sqm.
Lot 1616-B-5& 1616-B-6, Mun. Rd. Brgy. Tabuk Suba, Bloc, Nuevo
Market Value: 711,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 570,000.00

ITEM 46 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 374.00 sqm.
Lot 2-H, Subd. Rd De Los Santos Subd., Pob. Sur, Balasan
Market Value: 299,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 240,000.00

ITEM 47 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 173,334.00 sqm.
Lot 5339-A, Brgy. Tampucao, Lambunao
Market Value: 560,002.00
Minimum Bid Price : 421,000.00

ITEM 48 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 362.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2-G, Subd. Rd. De Los Santos Subd., Balasan
Market Value: 289,600.00
Minimum Bid Price : 232,000.00

ITEM 49 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 486.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 18 Aquino St. Subd. Rd Aquino St.,Phase 2, St. Joseph Subd.,Brgy. Bisbago, Jaro
Market Value: 734,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 698,000.00

ITEM 50 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 259.00 sqm.
Lot-1, Blk-2 Subd. Rd Catalan Subd.,Brgy. Capuling, Duenas
Market Value: 130,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 104,000.00

ITEM 51 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 226.00 sqm.
Lot-2, Blk. -2 Subd. Rd Catalan Subd.,Brgy. Capuling, Duenas
Market Value: 113,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 91,000.00

ITEM 52 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 2,500.00 sqm.
Lot 55-B-7-A-7 & Lot 55-B-7-A-5 R/R Of Way Brgy.Sambag, Jaro
Market Value: 3,442,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 2,562,000.00

ITEM 53 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 316.00 sqm.
L1-Aa Subd. Rd De Los Santos Subd., Pob'L Sur, Balasan
Market Value: 253,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 203,000.00

ITEM 54 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 226.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 2Subd. Rd Catalan Subd.Brgy. Capuling, Duenas
Market Value: 113,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 91,000.00

ITEM 55 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 259.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 2 Subd. Rd. Catalan Subd.,Brgy. Capuling, Duenas
Market Value: 130,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 104,000.00

ITEM 056 - Vacant / Residential Subd. Lot
Lot Area: 423.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk. 3, St. Joseph Subdiv. Brgy. Cubay, Jaro, Iloilo
Market Value: 500,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 450,000.00

ITEM 057 - Residential Lot w/ 2-Storey Res. Bldg
Lot Area: 497.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 108.25 sqm.
Lot 2387-A-2-C-2-C Poblacion, Municipality of Pototan
Market Value: 777,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 699,300.00

ITEM 058 - Residential Lot
Lot Area: 380.00 sqm.
Lot 2203-A-2 Interior Guzman St., Brgy. Guzman Jesena, Mandurriao
Market Value: 380,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 270,000.00

JANIUAY

ITEM 59 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 391.00 sqm.
L943 Prov'L Rd Brgy. Guadalupe
Market Value: 235,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 200,000.00

CALINOG

ITEM 60 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 1,746.00 sqm.
L4288, Delgado St., Pob. Head.
Market Value: 1,397,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,050,000.00

LAPAZ

ITEM 61 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 949.00 sqm.
Lot 3467-B Baldoza St.
Brgy. Baldoza
Market Value: 635,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 540,000.00

LEGANES

ITEM 62 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 493.00 sqm.
Lot 22 Espino Extension, Pob'L
Market Value: 345,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 260,000.00

POTOTAN

ITEM 63 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 2,598.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 42.00 sqm.
Lot 107 Railrd. Track, San Jose (Interior) St.,
Market Value: 1,871,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,405,000.00

SAN JOSE - TACLOBAN

ITEM 64 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 8,394.00 sqm.
Lot 663 Int. Portion Of Purok Kaingin, Brgy. Punta Taytay
Market Value: 2,015,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,512,000.00

ITEM 65 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 720.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 1,334.00 sqm.
Lot 406-B-26 & 29
13Th St., Brgy. 4
Market Value: 8,390,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 5,454,000.00

ITEM 66 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 518.00 sqm.
Lot 2258 Mabini St., Dancalan, Ilog
Market Value: 388,500.00
Minimum Bid Price : 350,000.00

ITEM 67 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 410.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 86.00 sqm.
Lot 91-B-5-G-1 Int Gallo St
Market Value: 496,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 372,000.00

ITEM 68 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 933.00 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk. 8 Sta. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 2,799,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,960,000.00

ITEM 69 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 2,329.00 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 2 Subd. Road, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1
Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 6,987,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 4,891,000.00

ITEM 70 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,107.00 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk. 39 Sta. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1
Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 3,321,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 2,325,000.00

ITEM 71 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 1,628.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B Blk 1 Circumferential Road, Sta. Clara Subd
Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 6,512,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 4,559,000.00

ITEM 72 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 2,243.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 1 Circumferential Road, Sta. Clara Subd., Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 8,972,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 6,281,000.00

ITEM 73 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 1,937.00 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 6 Circumferential Road, Sta. Clara Subd., Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 7,748,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 5,424,000.00

ITEM 74 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd (West) Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 552,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 525,000.00

ITEM 75 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd.(West), Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 552,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 525,000.00

ITEM 76 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd.(West), Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 552,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 525,000.00

ITEM 77 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd.(West), Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 552,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 525,000.00

ITEM 78 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd.(West), Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 552,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 525,000.00

ITEM 79 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 25 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd.(West), Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 552,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 525,000.00

ITEM 80 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 768.00 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 14 San Fernando Ave., Sta. Clara Subd.(West)
Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 1,746,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,400,000.00

ITEM 81 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 760.00 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 14 San Fernando Ave., Sta. Clara Subd.(West)
Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 1,746,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,400,000.00

ITEM 82 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 760.00 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 14 San Fernando Ave. Sta. Clara Subd. (West)
Brgy. Banago
Market Value: 1,746,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,400,000.00

ITEM 83 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,065.00 sqm.
Lot 38 Blk 5 Paquita St. Villa Valderrama Subd., Brgy. Bata
Market Value: 2,450,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,715,000.00

ITEM 84 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,039.00 sqm.
Lot 39 Blk 5 Amelia St., Villa Valderrama Subd. Brgy. Bata
Market Value: 2,390,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,673,000.00

ITEM 085 - 3 PROPERTIES
1) 1 Storey Office & Bodega
Lot Area: 957.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 236.36 sqm.
Lot 2-B-8-E Lirovile Subdivision
2) Vacant / Residential Subd. Lot
Lot Area: 186.00 sqm.
Lot 25 Blk. 27, Golden River Subdivision
3) Vacant / Residential Subd. Lot
Lot Area: 150.00 sqm.
Lot 26 Blk. 27, Golden River Subdivision
Market Value: 3,000,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 2,400,000.00

ITEM 086 - Vacant / Residential Subd. Lot
Lot Area: 499.00 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk. 9, Greenplains Subdivision III, Brgy. Singcang-Airport
Market Value: 1,247,500.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,185,125.00

ITEM 087 - Vacant / Residential Subd. Lot
Lot Area: 499.00 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk. 9, Greenplains Subdivision III, Brgy. Singcang-Airport
Market Value: 1,996,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,896,200.00

ITEM 088 - Vacant / Residential Subd. Lot
Lot Area: 503.00 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk. 9, Greenplains Subdivision III, Brgy. Singcang-Airport
Market Value: 2,012,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,911,400.00

ITEM 089 - Residential Lot
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 280.00 sqm.
Lot 10-A-4-C-2-B-2-C-7 Purok Mars near Araneta Street, Brgy. Singcang-Airport
Market Value: 4,000,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 3,400,000.00

ITEM 090 - Vacant Comm'L lots
Lot Area: 346.00 sqm.
Lot 6-F-3-B & 6-F-3-C Tindalo Ave., Shopping, Brgy. Villamonte
Market Value: 3,800,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 3,420,000.00

ITEM 091 - Residential Lot
Lot Area: 3,937.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Hilda Katumbal, Brgy. San Jose, E.B. Magalona
Negros Occ.
Market Value: 800,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 600,000.00

BAGO

ITEM 92 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 10,000.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 900.00 sqm.
Lot 14-A Bago-Ma-Ao Road, Brgy Lag-Asan
Market Value: 5,090,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 4,072,000.00

ITEM 93 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 725.00 sqm.
Lot 216-A--5-H, Purok Balinghoy, Poblacion
Market Value: 290,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 203,000.00

ITEM 94 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 216-A--5-A, Purok Balinghoy, Poblacion
Market Value: 400,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 320,000.00

CADIZ

ITEM 95 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk. 4, Lot 3 Blk. 4, Lot 4 Blk. 4 Purok Democracia, Brgy. Jerusalem
Market Value: 90,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 72,000.00

ITEM 96 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 251.00 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 28 Road Lot 27, Andrea Village, Zone II, Poblacion
Market Value: 100,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 70,000.00

HINOBA-AN

ITEM 97 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 2,279.00 sqm.
3954-B-6-B Brgy. 2 Poblacion
Market Value: 272,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 191,000.00

KABANKALAN

ITEM 98 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 999.50 sqm.
Floor Area: 164.00 sqm.
Lot 154-A-2 Burgos St. Brgy. 6
Market Value: 1,205,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 904,000.00

HAMTIC

ITEM 99 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area: 973.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 148.00 sqm.
Lot No. 186-F-5 Bangga Tuling, Int. Lacson St.
Market Value: 791,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 595,000.00

SAN ENRIQUE

ITEM 100 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 135.00 sqm.
Lot 19-I-5-A A E Marenos St., Poblacion II
Market Value: 666,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 500,000.00

ITEM 101 - LOT W/ IMPRVT
Lot Area: 201.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 70.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 3 Osterhols Sharonbeck Corner Mozart Sts., City Heights Subd.,
Market Value: 311,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 280,000.00

ITEM 102 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 100.00 sqm.
Lot 10, Blk 46 Topaz St., Extension, Poblacion 1
Market Value: 554,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 416,000.00

ITEM 103 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 80.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 43 Topaz St
Aguilar Subd.,
Market Value: 686,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 456,000.00

ITEM 104 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Lot 14 Purok Leno, Brgy. Vito
Market Value: 45,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 32,000.00

ITEM 105 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Lot 9 Purok Leno, Brgy. Vito
Market Value: 45,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 32,000.00

SAN CARLOS

ITEM 106 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 10,275.00 sqm.
Lot 1819 Sitio San Roque, Brgy Salamanca
Market Value: 57,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 40,000.00

VICTORIAS

ITEM 108 - LOT W/ IMPRVT.
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 91.00 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 10 Urdaneta St., Salvacion Subd.
Market Value: 376,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 339,000.00

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES

AKLAN

ITEM 0109 - Vacant Residential / Commercial Lot
Lot Area: 487.00 sqm.
Lot 167-B C. Laserna St., Poblacion, Kalibo
Market Value: 5,800,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 5,220,000.00

ITEM 0110 - Residential Lot w/ Bungalow & Warehouse
Lot Area: 531.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 129.00 sqm
Lot 4795-I Brgy. Tinigao
Market Value: 650,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 618,000.00

ANTIQUE

ITEM 0111 - Vacant Residential Lot
Lot Area: 567.00 sqm.
Lot 18 Blk. 1 Road Lot 2, Brgy. Road Funda-Dalipe, San Jose
Market Value: 453,600.00
Minimum Bid Price : 431,600.00

ITEM 0112 - Vacant Residential Lot
Lot Area: 597.00 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk. 1, Road Lot 2 Brgy. Road Funda-Dalipe, San Jose
Market Value: 477,600.00
Minimum Bid Price : 459,000.00

CAPIZ

ITEM 0113 - Vacant Residential Lot
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 1212-B-6-Ebo Tiza And Bo. Maliuk, Roxas City
Market Value: 1,000,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 950,000.00

BACOLOD

ITEM 114 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 2,224.00 sqm.
L-535 San Roque St., Brgy. Sum-Ag, Bacolod City
Market Value: 1,668,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,010,000.00

ITEM 115 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 30,000.00 sqm.
Lot 3119-A, Tabu, Ilog City,
Negros Occ.
Market Value: 504,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 430,000.00

ITEM 116 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 30,000.00 sqm.
Lot 3119-B Tabu, Ilog City
Negros Occ
Market Value: 521,300.00
Minimum Bid Price : 445,000.00

ITEM 117 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 775.00 sqm.
Lot 7-B Blk 43 B.S. Aquino Drive, Brgy 5, Bacolod City
Market Value: 9,588,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 8,720,000.00

ITEM 118 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 700.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 13, G Cordova St., Brgy.2, Kabankalan City
Market Value: 1,617,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,455,000.00

ITEM 119 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 703.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 102.00 sqm.
Lot 572, Old National Road, San Enrique, Negros Occ
Market Value: 766,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 613,000.00

ITEM 120 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 744.00 sqm.
Lot 511, Vagallon St., San Enrique, Negros Occ
Market Value: 372,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 336,000.00

ITEM 121 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 512.00 sqm.
Lot 21 Libre Subdivision, Toboson, Negros Occ.
Market Value: 179,200.00
Minimum Bid Price : 153,000.00

ITEM 122 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 998.00 sqm.
Lot 26-L-2-A Libre Subdivision, Toboson, Negros Occ
Market Value: 299,400.00
Minimum Bid Price : 240,000.00

ITEM 123 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 297.00 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 4, Dumdum Subd., Toboso, Negros Occ.
Market Value: 89,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 76,000.00

ITEM 124 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENTS
Lot Area: 297.00 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 5, Dumdum Subd., Toboso, Negros Occ
Market Value: 89,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 76,000.00

✓GUARANTEED FINANCING-FIXED INTEREST UP TO 10YRS
✓10% DOWN PAYMENT FOR LOTS
✓25% DOWN PAYMENT FOR DEVELOPED PROPERTIES
✓DEPOSIT PHP 25,000.00 CASH, MANAGER'S CHECK (NO DEPOSIT NO PARTICIPATION)
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Please Call PNB-AMS SALES III - Auction Team
AUCTION INQUIRY

How Tia Carrere stole the show...

From page G2

antlered, fast-talking mule deer who disrupts the domesticated life of a bear (voice of **Martin Lawrence**). Their adventures as exiles from town who are forced to survive in the wild form the plot of this movie which was No. 1 at the box office when it opened in the US. Ashton had the honor of starring in the top two weekend hits (his other movie, "The Guardian," placed second).

"I don't think I've fantasized about being an animated character ever," he confessed. "The folks at Sony Animation Pictures called and asked me to come play this one-antlered deer. So I could see how I was going to sound as that character, they took some lines from my previous movies and cut them together with a little bit of animation. It was a little odd at first. It was kind of bizarre hearing your voice and seeing the deer making some of my familiar gestures. But once the movie started coming together, I got a little more comfortable with it."

Gamely responding to the stock "what if ..." question, the former model said, "I don't want to come back as an animal but to answer that question, I'd choose to come back as a fish. Fish don't have any eyelids. They're surrounded by water which is mercy. Fish are supposed to be the righteous souls—the tzadikim."

The reply, and the mention of a Hebrew term, "tzadikim," prompted a reporter to ask about the couple's exploration of Kabbalah, a form of Jewish mysticism which is being embraced by Madonna and other celebrities. "It's there," he said of the Kabbalah bracelet which he wore underneath his layered clothing this morning.

"Kabbalah is not like one of those external things," he explained. "It's not like a thing that you go get or attain. It's about the essence of who you are. It's not like an 'outside me' kind of thing. It's about approaching things with compassion, not like trying to smash your ego."

As the interview topics went back to earthier matters, like the paparazzi which stalked Ashton and Demi when news of their May-December romance broke out (he was 25; she was 40), the Iowa native maintained that being ambushed by photographers is not the same thing as being "Punk'd."

The host and producer of "Punk'd," an MTV show which plays pranks on unsuspecting popular personalities, stated, "The celebrities have to sign releases before I can air anything on the show. So I'm not stealing their image."

"And they get paid," he continued. "It's like being on a talk show. You sign a release. I won't air it if you don't sign it. So it's different because people are not stealing."

Asked if his experience "punk'ing" celebrities had something to do with his apparent ease with the media spotlight, Ashton brought up a different explanation instead: "(It's because) I don't have anything to hide. Early on in my career, I decided to get a bunch of skeletons out of the closet. I talked about when I broke into my high school (convicted of third-degree burglary, he got three years of probation and was required to do community service) and my family's difficulties. When you have the fear, when you're hiding something, you become reactive. The more you create resistance, the uglier it becomes. But the paparazzi stuff has also calmed down, which is really nice."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

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BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

movietime exclusive presents

From The Writer of "BRING IT ON"

Haley Graham (Missy Peregrym, "Life As We Know It") is a 17 year-old brat who is sentenced into detention after breaking the law. The judge sentences Haley to attend an elite gymnastics academy run by the legendary hardnosed coach Burt Vickerman (Jeff Bridges, "Seabiscuit"), where her rebellious spirit and naughty banter quickly shakes things up at the conservative school.

During her stay, Haley surprises herself when she discovers an unexpected ally with her coach and learns respect in a different way.

Together, Haley with her coach and a group of gymnasts face a major championship and prove that loyalty, friendship and individuality matter more than techniques, judges and scores.

Starring: Jeff Bridges • Missy Peregrym
Written and Directed by: Jessica Bendinger

NOW SHOWING AT SM CINEMA MANILA starting October 25.
MTRCB RATING: PG13

A Touchstone Pictures and Spyglass Entertainment Presentation
Distributed by Buena Vista International through Columbia Pictures

OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNERS: 96.3WROCK

NOW SHOWING
ANNAPOLIS

COMING SOON
•Nov 1 INVINCIBLE
•Nov 22 THANK YOU FOR SMOKING

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
IMAX
T-REX
11:00AM 12:30PM 2:00PM 3:30PM 10:00PM
ANT BULLY IN 3D
5:00PM
SUPERMAN RETURNS
7:00PM Admission Price- P350
1 THE BANQUET
2 MY FIRST WEDDING
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
5 BARANG
6 TXT
PREMIERE CINEMA
TILL I MET YOU
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
WORLD TRADE CENTER
CENTERSTAGE
WORLD TRADE CENTER
CINEMA 1
WORLD TRADE CENTER
CINEMA 2
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 THE BANQUET
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 TXT
9 PULSE
10 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
11 BARANG
12 THE BANQUET

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 THE BANQUET
2 THE DEPARTED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 THE GUARDIAN
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 BARANG
8 ANNAPOLIS
9 TILL I MET YOU
10 RESERVED
11 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
12 TXT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 PULSE
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 THE BANQUET
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 BARNYARD
9 TXT
10 BARANG
11 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
12 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 TXT
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 MY FIRST WEDDING
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 BARANG
9 THE DEPARTED
10 PULSE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 BARANG
3 THE BANQUET
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 TXT
6 THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 BARNYARD
4 THE GUARDIAN/UFC
5 BARANG
6 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 TXT
9 THE BANQUET

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE BANQUET

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 THE BANQUET
2 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
3 PULSE
4 MY FIRST WEDDING
5 THE GUARDIAN
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 BARANG
8 FIRST DAY HIGH
9 TILL I MET YOU
10 THE DEPARTED
11 DEAD OR ALIVE
12 TXT

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 PULSE
2 TXT
3 BARANG
4 TILL I MET YOU

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 BARANG

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 BARANG
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER

movietime PROMO

Watch and Win at SM Cinema

The Employee of the Month Poll is on!

Be one of the 10 lucky winners of Jessica Simpson's latest album, A Public Affair, from Sony BMG Music Philippines by giving us your best answer to this question about the movie:

Who do you think deserves to be the "Employee of the Month" and why?
A.) Zach Bradley B.) Vince Downey

Send in your answers together with your name, age, address and contact number to movieaddicts_smcinema@yahoo.com
All winners will be notified through phone on how to claim their prize

NOW SHOWING AT SM CINEMA
Jessica Simpson's "A Public Affairs" now available at all record bars
SONY BMG
MTRCB Rating PG-13

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 PULSE
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 BARANG
5 TXT
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
8 THE BANQUET

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 PULSE
3 TXT
4 BARANG
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 THE DEPARTED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 BARANG

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 BARANG

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 TXT
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 PULSE
4 FLY BOYS
5 BARANG
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LIPA
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT
3 BARANG
4 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 BARANG

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 BARANG

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 BARANG

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 THE DEPARTED
2 BARANG
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 THE DEPARTED
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 STEP UP
5 BARANG
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 TXT
8 THE BREED

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 RESERVED
3 THE BREED
4 TXT
5 THE DEPARTED
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 RESERVED
8 BARANG

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 SCOOP
2 BARANG
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 PULSE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 BARANG
4 TALLADEGA NIGHTS

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHOWTiME EVENT CALENDAR

MAXMEDIA presents

the APO experience
October 27, 2006 • 8:30 pm
Tickets at P800 • P1,100 • P1,325
MEGAMALL Cinema 10
Tickets available at TICKETWORLD 891-5610/ 891-9999

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

OPENS NOV 1 2006
FROM THE MAKERS OF THE AWARD-WINNING AND CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED "MASAHISTA"

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

THE NO. 1 U.S. MOVIE UNLEASHES HELL ON OCTOBER 25!

Two years ago a door was opened
and a grudge was born.
This halloween, what was contained
will be unleashed.

THE GRUDGE 2
FROM SAM RAIMI
THE DIRECTOR OF SPIDERMAN 1 & 2
AMBER TAMBLYN ARIELLE KEBBEL JENNIFER BEALS SARAH ROEMER
& SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR
GHOST HOUSE PICTURES
VIVA

Silver Tessie

TESSIE Tomas

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS DOWN the road, Tessie Tomas isn't ready to step on the breaks. Her latest comedy revue, "TT25 (Tessie Tomas @25)" goes on an emergency trip to Batac.

SHOW TIME

She introduces us to a new set of zany "co-passengers" in her continuing comic journey. She takes us through the travails of sexpot Kiana Ribs then detours to the occupational hazards of sleepless Call Center executives like Chelsea Bayot and treats us with a peek into the world of Trixie, the "It" Girl of Makati, who's into gadgets and gizmos.

Tessie even produced a special MTV TT25 to spice up the show and put Janet Jackson in the backseat.

Show dates are on Oct. 27, Nov. 4, 11 and 18 at Tavern on the Square.

Dance with Vina

After her first major concert "Showgirl" at the Araneta Coliseum last August, Vina Morales will heat up Casino Filipino Angeles on Oct. 27 at 9 p.m in a show dubbed "Dance With Me ... Vina Morales."

The singer-actress will showcase her trademark sexy production numbers, performing hits from pop icons Beyoncé Knowles, Jennifer Lopez and Mariah Carey.

For inquiries, call (02) 920-2643 or (045) 332-1196.

Bitter servings of tragedy . . .

From page G6

between the cloaked imperial guardsmen and the prince), while exciting and artistically presented, are short and few. One may expect Zhang to unleash her martial arts prowess in some of the melees, as she's breathtakingly done so in the past. She doesn't, which may disappoint those who are expecting to see her perform her deadly mid-air pirouettes here. She did give brief exhibitions of her agility, but they leave those hoping to see her eloquence in combat hanging.

It would've been great to see her perform new moves for this film, but Zhang does decently enough without her arsenal of high-flying footwork. However, she occasionally gets dull and dreary as the hostile Empress. Still, among the most interesting parts of the movie are those that show the Empress' enmity with Wu Luan's lover (Zhou Xun), and her standoffish relations with Emperor Li and the grieving prince. The other characters are similarly tragic figures that get boring after a while.

The tangled betrayals and dark revelations culminate, expectedly, at a special royal banquet. The physical clashes, again, are too brief, and the climactic showdown is a somber affair that's devoid of any lasting spectacle. "The Banquet" is still impressive, though, despite its coarse and jagged narrative strokes. There's credible artistry in it, even when it's nowhere near as lavish or opulent as the big cinematic feasts that preceded it.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

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FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE DEPARTED • THX 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER 11:30 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
3 THE GUARDIAN 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
4 TILL I MET YOU 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
5 THE BANQUET 1:50 4:35 7:20 10:00
6 Reserve for Victory Church Fellowship
7 MY FIRST WEDDING 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
8 TXT 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
9 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
10 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
2 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 TXT 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50
4 TILL I MET YOU 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50
5 THE GUARDIAN 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
6 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50
7 THE BANQUET 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 BARNYARD 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 TILL I MET YOU 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
3 THE BANQUET 12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER 1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
5 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
6 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
7 THE GUARDIAN 12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
8 TXT 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TXT
5 THE BANQUET

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575 **PIONEER** 687-5378

1 THE BREED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 THE DEPARTED
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL

LIPA (043) 757-3864 (043) 312-5870

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 TILL I MET YOU

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 PULSE
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 TXT
4 TILL I MET YOU

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 PULSE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 THE BANQUET
2 TXT
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TILL I MET YOU

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 981-5270

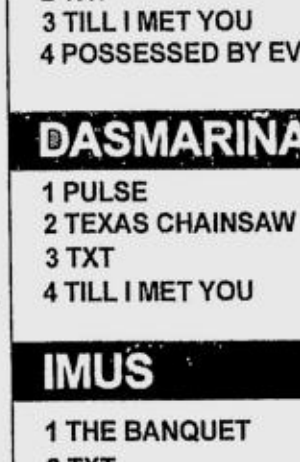
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE BREED
5 PULSE
6 FLY BOYS

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0450

1 THE DEPARTED
2 STEP UP
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE BREED
5 TXT
6 FLY BOYS

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 THE DEPARTED
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 DEAD OR ALIVE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MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 (10:30am) WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 (10:30am) THE BANQUET
3 (10:30am) BARNYARD THE DEPARTED
4 (10:30am) THE GUARDIAN
PREVIEW 10:30am EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, China Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 THE GUARDIAN / BANYARD
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER

stармall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 (10:30am DOLBY) WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 TXT

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 6433994
1 BARANG
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE BANQUET
4 TXT

CTHEATRES
(at Pacific Mall Cabanatuan) Telephone No. (044) 600-3025
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE BREED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (10:30am) EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
2 (10:30am) TILL I MET YOU
3 (10:30am) WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 (10:30am DOLBY) THE GUARDIAN
5 (10:30am DOLBY) THE BANQUET
6 (10:30am DOLBY) WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 (10:30am DOLBY) THE DEPARTED
8 (10:30am DOLBY) TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
9 (10:30am DOLBY) BARANG
10 (10:30am DOLBY) TXT

Blue Wave MAR ARNTOR
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) TXT
2 (DOLBY) EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
3 (DOLBY) WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 (DOLBY) TILL I MET YOU

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (10:30am) BANQUET
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT
5 BARANG

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 THE DEPARTED
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 BARANG

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 TILL I MET YOU

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (10:30am) DEAD OR ALIVE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 (10:30am) TXT
4 BARANG

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 TXT
2 FLY BOYS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (10:30am) THE BANQUET
2 (10:30am) WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 (10:30am) BANYARD THE GUARDIAN
4 (10:30am) EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 TXT
2 (10:30am) TILL I MET YOU
3 (10:30am) THE DEPARTED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 (10:30am) THE DEPARTED
3 (10:30am) THE BREED
4 TXT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 (10:30am) JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 (10:30am) TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 (10:30am) THE BREED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 THE DEPARTED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 (10:30am) TXT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 POSSESSED BY EVIL
2 THE DEPARTED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (10:30am) BARANG
2 BABASAGING KRISTAL
3 MAPAG BIGAY
4 (10:30am) THE DEPARTED

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (10:30am) TILL I MET YOU
2 PERLAS
3 (10:30am) THE DEPARTED
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL
5 TXT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TXT

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
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2 DEAD OR ALIVE

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Bitter servings of tragedy in 'The Banquet'

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

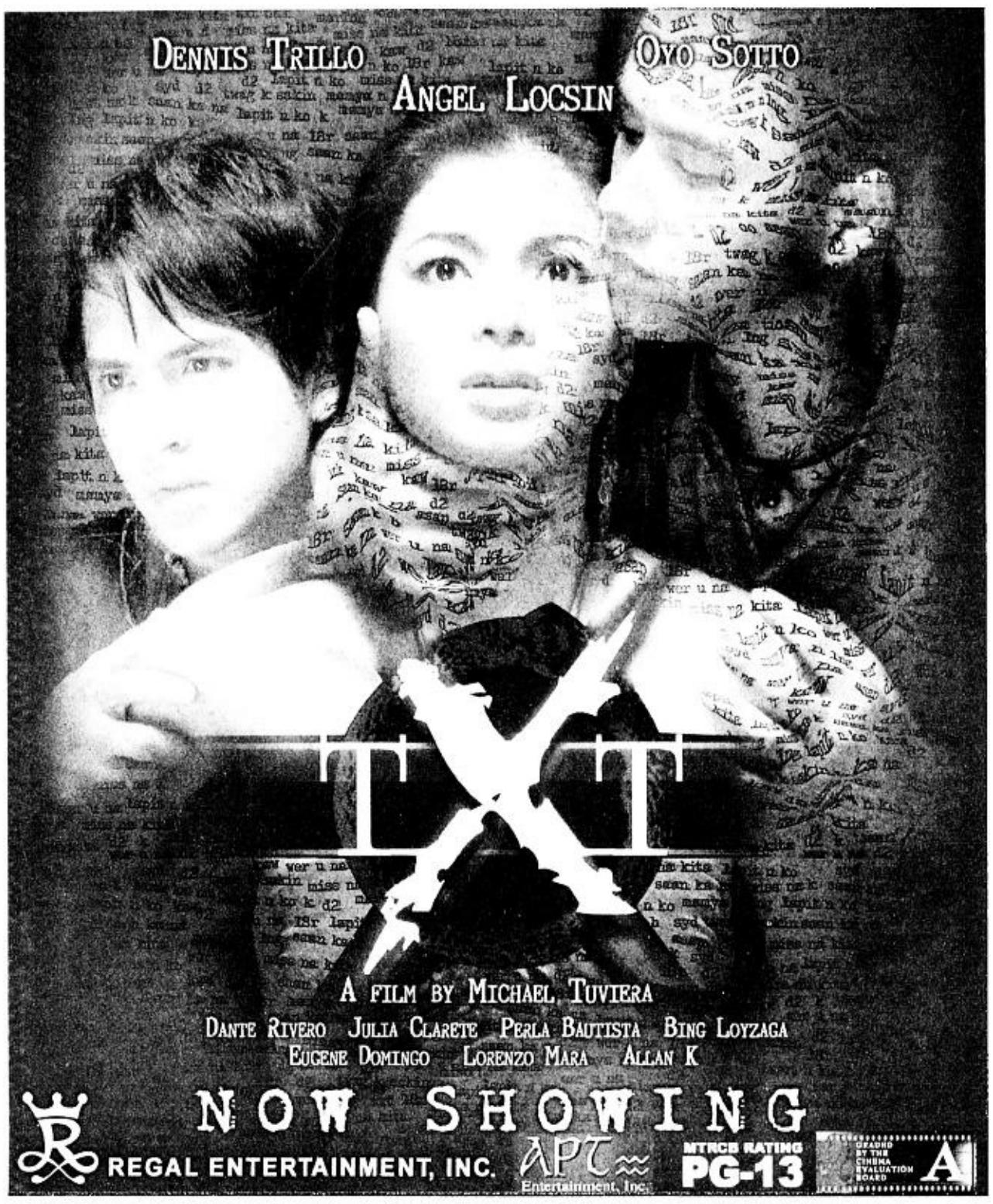
CHINESE EPIC FILMS IN RECENT years have combined massive martial arts spectacles with striking, resplendent aesthetics, resulting in cinematic endeavors like "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Hero" and "House of Flying Daggers." While these furious, fantastical tales set in ancient times are actually stark and simple underneath their superb production values, they usually underscore timeless themes and conflicts.

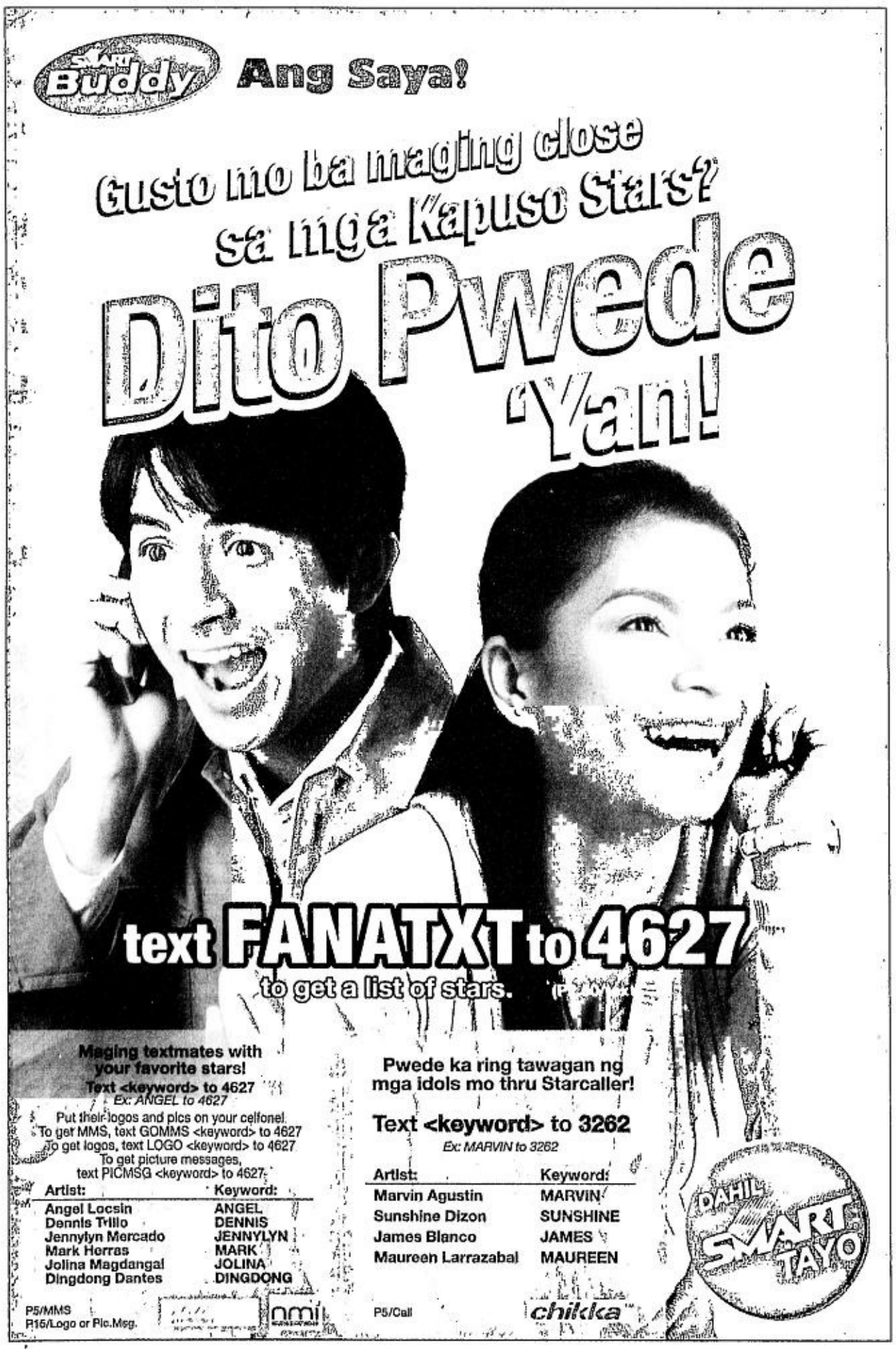
It's not always easily discernible if their warrior protagonists are good or evil; some decidedly flawed ones defy that rather simplistic categorization. That applies to the conflicted Empress Wan (Ziyi Zhang) in "The Banquet." This latest big-budgeted epic centers on a beleaguered royal family's impassioned schemes and counter-schemes, and its members' not-so-secret deeds and desires.

Empress Wan is ambitious; she wastes no time in getting cozy with her brother-in-law, the new Emperor Li (Ge You), so soon after she's widowed. Many believe that the deceased Emperor was killed by a scorpion, but his son, Prince Wu Luan (Daniel Wu), has reason to suspect foul play. Narrowly escaping an attack by assassins in a peaceful actors' retreat, the artist prince returns to the royal palace and discovers startling truths. He tries to piece together the circumstances surrounding the tragedy, and hopes to expose the treachery behind it. He feels puzzled that Wan isn't exactly convincing as a mourning wife, either.

"The Banquet," directed by Feng Xiaogang, is considerably darker, but in some ways, smaller in scale compared to the aforementioned movies. The action scenes (mostly savage skirmishes

BITTER/ G5





The music continues till the killings stop

BAGONG Dugo keeps the crowd in stitches.

PHOTOS BY GIL NARTEA

JOCELYN "Gougou" de Jesus sings like a jazz chanteuse.

Bar tour for peace rounds up fourth leg

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

A CONSERVATORY-TRAINED GUITARist, a journalist and a group working in a major broadcasting network comprised the performers' lineup on the fourth leg of the "Stop the Killings" bar tour held Oct. 17 at the Newsdesk Café in Quezon City.

Mars Garcia, who reportedly comes from the same batch as that of veteran classical/folk musician Lester Demetillo at the University of the Philippines' College of Music, opened the show with an acoustic guitar version of Chuck Mangione's "Feels So Good."

It set off an easygoing vibe among the audience mostly composed of writers, poets, artists, photographers and hard-boiled newsmen.

The only indication that this was no ordinary event was the presence of a TV crew from the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC), led by a female newscaster who was interviewing INQUIRER columnist Conrado de Quiros on why he thought of organizing the bar tour.

THE MUSIC/ H3

PHOTO COURTESY OF JP CARPIO

A SCENE from the film "Bunker O: Simirib"

ABC 5 apologizes for short film censorship

By Marinel R. Cruz

PEOPLE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE airing of "Guimaras: Shorts from the Oil Spill" on ABC 5's current affairs program, "Shorts," have apologized to independent filmmaker JP Carpio, who last week charged the network with censorship.

"I accepted their apologies wholeheartedly," Carpio told INQUIRER Entertainment in an e-mail he sent on Wednesday. "(But) the reasons for editing out portions of the film still stand as a form of censorship in my opinion."

Carpio complained that key portions of his short film "Bunker O: Sumirib" involving the residents of Guimaras "expressing their honest feelings were censored... This destroys the very reason all the films were made—to help give Guimaras and its people a voice, to help show their perspective."

A four-minute version of the film was aired on "Shorts" on Oct. 8, along with the works of 12 other filmmakers.

"I infer that (the reasons for editing) were sadly due to various internal and external pressures in connection with the portions mentioning Petron," Carpio said.

The oil tanker, MT Solar I, loaded with two million liters of bunker fuel, sank off Guimaras Island on Aug. 11. The tanker was chartered by Petron Corp.

Carpio added that a meeting with ABC 5 representatives was set on Oct. 16, where "all parties were given their chance to express their sides." The filmmaker reported that in the meeting, ABC 5 said "no malice was intended in the decision to edit out portions of the film."

Carpio also acknowledged that "there really exists an official ABC 5 network policy reserving the right to re-edit a filmmaker's submitted work for the program 'Shorts.'"

But he added that ABC 5 did not verbally inform the filmmakers involved in the project beforehand of this policy.

"Given that there was no verbal or written agreement of the network's policy, still, no communication occurred between the program representatives and

ABC 5/ H2

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Movie workers from eight countries meet in Manila

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

MANILA PLAYED HOST TO THE UNI-MEI Conference: "Making a Living, Making Films in Asia Pacific," held at the Bayview Park Hotel along Roxas Boulevard from Oct. 10 to 12.

UNI, or Union Network International, "represents over 900 unions and 15 million workers in 14 service sectors (like banking and finance) worldwide." UNI-MEI, or UNI-Media Entertainment International, specifically "represents movie workers (directors, writers, composers, technicians and administrative staff personnel) organized in over 140 unions with a total membership of 250,000."

The Philippines is represented in UNI-MEI by the Directors' Guild of the Philippines Inc. (DGPI) and the Nagkakaisang Manggagawa ng Pelikulang Pilipino (NMPP).

It was under the auspices of DGPI and NMPP that the movie workers' conference was held, "for the first time," in Manila, said Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, chair of DGPI's education committee.

Conference participants came from at least eight countries, said Siguion-Reyna and Joel Lamangan, president of NMPP: "Australia, Denmark, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand and the Philippines."

Among the 12 international organizations that sent representatives were the Hong Kong Directors' Guild, the Indian Film Directors' Guild, the Intellectual Property Corp. of Malaysia and the Singapore Film Workers' Union.

"There are usually around 30 participants in UNI-MEI conferences. For the Manila meet, there were over 35 attendees. Our country, in fact, has a big contingent this year," Siguion-Reyna told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Among the Filipinos spotted by the INQUIRER at the conference were filmmakers Mel Chionglo, Emmanuel H. Borlaza and Tony Reyes, actors Gina Alajar and Rez Cortez and scriptwriter Raquel Villavicencio.

'We need to train our workers to become globally competitive'

National Artist for Film Eddie Romero delivered the keynote address and Mowelfund executive director Boots Anson-Roa, independent director Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil and film editor Manet Dayrit also participated in the conference.

Roa discussed the Philippine situation, while Marfil and Dayrit tackled "Equal Opportunity in Film Production," along with fellow panelist Lynn Gailey of Australia.

EDDIE Romero (extreme left) speaks before film workers. Also in photo are (from left) Jun Umali, Emmanuel H. Borlaza, Joel Lamangan and Carlitos Siguion-Reyna ROGER MARGALLO

Siguion-Reyna reported that for the past two years, DGPI has been participating in UNI-MEI meets in Bangkok, Thailand; Mumbai, India; and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

UNI-MEI, he said, concerns itself with the welfare of entertainment workers, "to institute and maintain decent working conditions, to protect intellectual property and safeguard freedom of expression and association—specifically, the freedom to unionize and organize."

Organizing local movie workers is all the more imperative in the face of globalization, said Siguion-Reyna. "So that we can protect workers and prevent exploitation."

He, however, asserted that "organizing" film workers would benefit producers because it would streamline and simplify the process. "Producers only need to talk to a few people, the heads of the guilds, instead of thousands of individuals."

"Unionizing doesn't mean having strikes left and right," Lamangan clarified.

"We want to revise the concept of unions as obstructionists, with a confrontational attitude against employers. We are seeking a constructive collaboration with producers," Siguion-Reyna explained.

Last month in Malaysia, Siguion-Reyna recalled, the "issue of the implementation of the Free Trade Zone" was raised. "Asean governments decided to accelerate the lifting of trade barriers from 2020 to 2015," he pointed out.

How would this policy affect ordinary movie workers?

That's bad news, said Lamangan.

"We need to train our workers to become globally competitive," Siguion-Reyna said.

"We need to get our act together first before we can open our market to foreigners," Lamangan quipped. "We're not yet ready. There should be some form of protection for our workers."

"This is not to restrict the entry of foreigners, but we have to make sure that we are prepared when the time comes. We need to upgrade our skills. Perhaps the business and amusement taxes that the industry pays government should be plowed back into world-class film arts/crafts/business education for workers and managers in the film community so as to ready the industry for the brutal competition of the Asean Free Trade Zone," Siguion-Reyna said.

The participants came up with a dozen conclusions at the end of the conference: "The need to get governments [to recognize] the film sector as an economic force and as a formal industry; the importance of greater women participation in the industry; the importance of fostering regional and global cooperation and collaboration; the need to devise minimum welfare standards for cinema workers; and the necessity of creating effective fora for exchange of information, knowledge and experience through newsletters and other communication systems," among others.

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"EDITING out portions of the film still stands as a form of censorship," says Carpio.

ABC 5 apologizes...

From page H1

myself when the decision was made to edit out the portions concerning Petron and the oil spill," he stressed. "The program went ahead with editing them out without first consulting me."

An ABC 5 executive, who requested anonymity, said the network is now considering whether or not to extend the airing of "Shorts," which ends its first season on Nov. 9.

"It is still in the drawing board. Many of us in ABC 5 feel that 'Shorts' is a good show but is way ahead of its time. The Filipino audience is not ready for it, judging from its ratings," the executive explained.

"Guimaras: Short Films from the Oil Spill" will have its regular screenings at the Robinsons Galleria Cinemas from Nov. 18 to 19 as part of fundraising efforts of the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative (IFC) for Guimaras.

The music continues till the killings stop

From page H1

De Quiros explained that he wanted people to voice out their anger and indignation over the series of deaths involving journalists and activists (and lately even bishops and aides of opposition figures).

The organizers, made up of media practitioners, club owners and musicians, agreed it was more productive and meaningful to deliver the message that life is sacred through the power of music.

Garcia's second number was "Dance With Me" which sounded faithful to the Earl Klugh recording. After which the emcee teased the next performer by saying: *"Hindi ko malaman kung itong susunod, e,* journalist *na nagpapanggap na* singer, *o* singer *talaga na nagtatago lang bilang* journalist. *Nang tanungin ko kung paano ko siya i-*introduce, *ang sabi niya, e,* Gou *lang."*

Gou turned out to be Jocelyn "Gougou" de Jesus, writer-editor who's also known to have a voice like a jazz chanteuse. She was apologetic for not having had the time to rehearse.

But she breezed through five numbers, introducing the first song with a laugh: "Everybody's been doing bossa nova, but what the heck, we'll do the same." Garcia accompanied her with an acoustic reading of "One Note Samba."

De Jesus dedicated "You Don't Know Me" to De Quiros, whom she ribbed by recalling the nights they spent drinking: "*Wala pa hong* gout *si* Conrad *no'ng maging kainuman ko 'yan...*"

By her fourth song, a bouncy take on "Mac the Knife," De Jesus had her audience snapping their fingers and singing along. She ended her set with "How Insensitive," which was about the pain of loving, but whose title somehow bore a parallelism to the seeming apathy of government authorities on the killing spree.

Bagong Dugo, a five-man musical comedy revue, next took the stage. Composed of voice/acting talents and news editors from ABS-CBN, the group led by guitarist Kiko Ortega and singers Ferdie Aboga, Alexx Agcaoili, Jojit Lorenzo and Joel Saracho kept the crowd howling in stitches with songs that described situations with irony.

A commentary on the effects of typhoon "Milenyo" was followed by a satirical treatment of two Beatles originals: "Here comes the sun... and I say... I'll follow the sun..."

Taking the place of the lyrics of "Bahay Kubo" was an enumeration of "tragic" events that didn't spare the current occupant of Malacañang.

SUSAN Fernandez dishes out a succession of folk rock covers.

The character sketch on a *probinsiyano* joining a reality show about "cha-cha" was particularly hilarious.

Bagong Dugo's performance stretched to more than an hour, with humorous punch lines being thrown almost non-stop, only to end with Saracho reading a double-entendre "letter to Xerex" from a supposedly besieged journalist.

Susan Fernandez was up next with a succession of folk rock covers: Joey Ayala's "Walang Ibang Sadya," Leon Russell's "A Song for You" and Mamas and the Papas' "Dream a Little Dream of Me."

"*Kung alam niyo 'yong* Mamas and the Papas," Fernandez joked, "*ang tatanda niyo na pala...*" She herself looked ageless, not far from the way she looked and sounded during her gigs at the old Club Dredd.

Fernandez then called De Jesus back for a spirited jam of "Can't Take That Away From Me," as if to assert that life, indeed, is much too precious to be snuffed out with bullets.

It was announced that night that the fifth leg of this bar tour moves on to saGuijo in Makati on Oct. 25. With Parokya ni Edgar leading three other bands on the bill, wonder how people would fit into the cramped dive that has become a choice hangout of young music fans.

Life is too precious to be snuffed out with bullets

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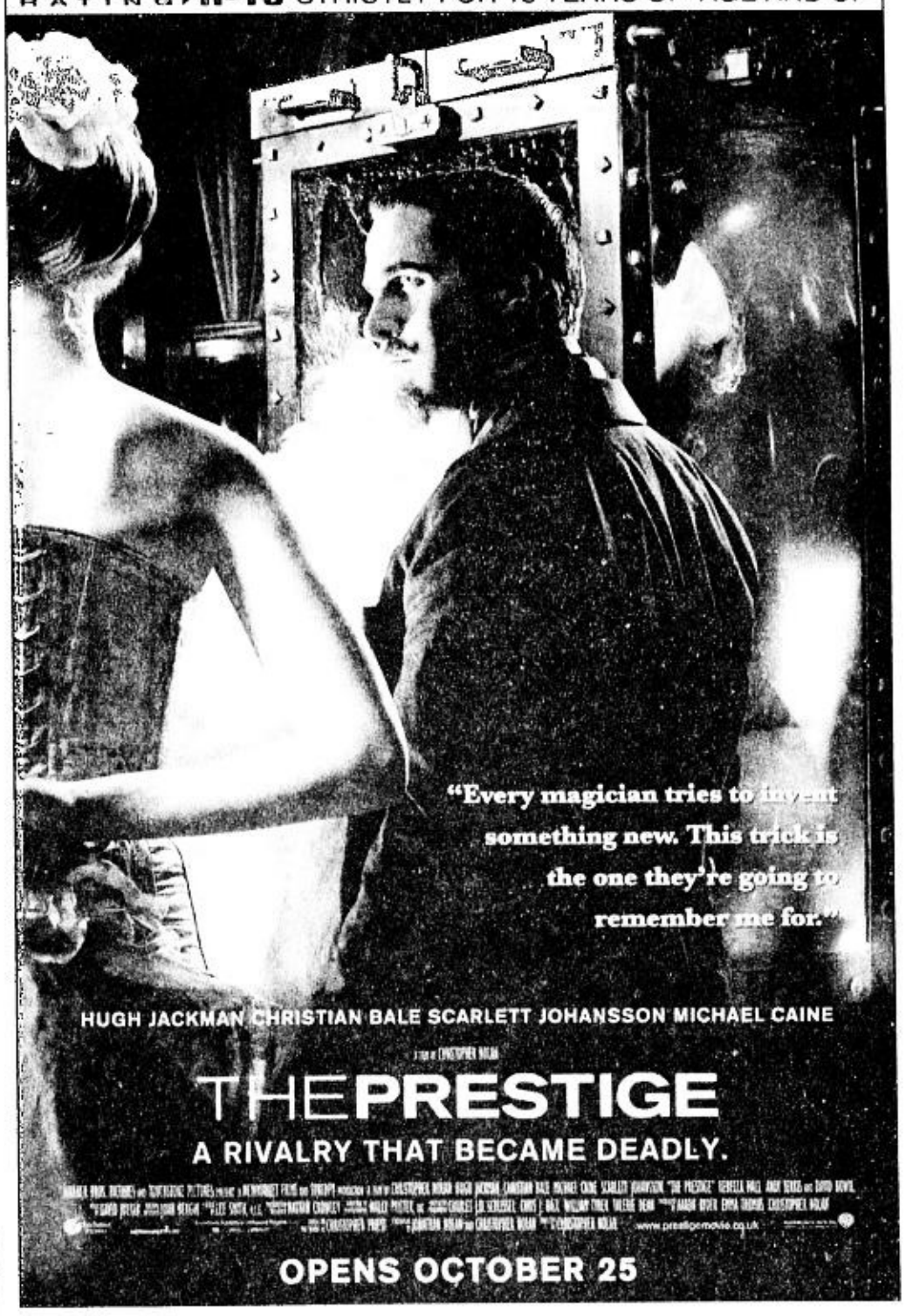
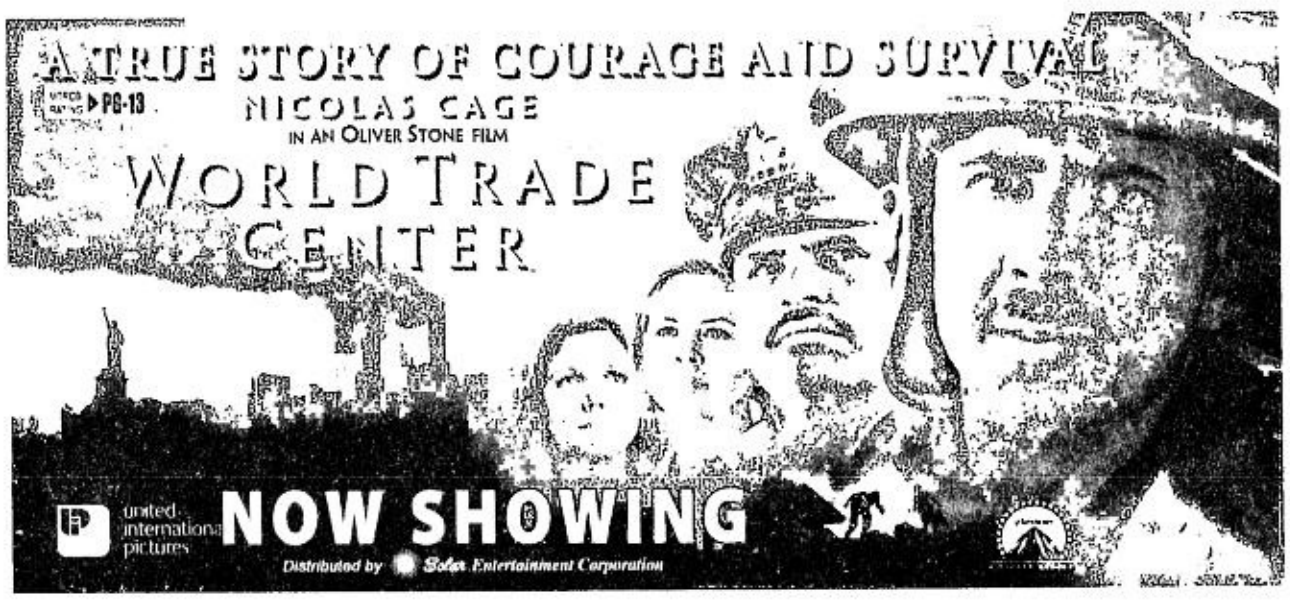
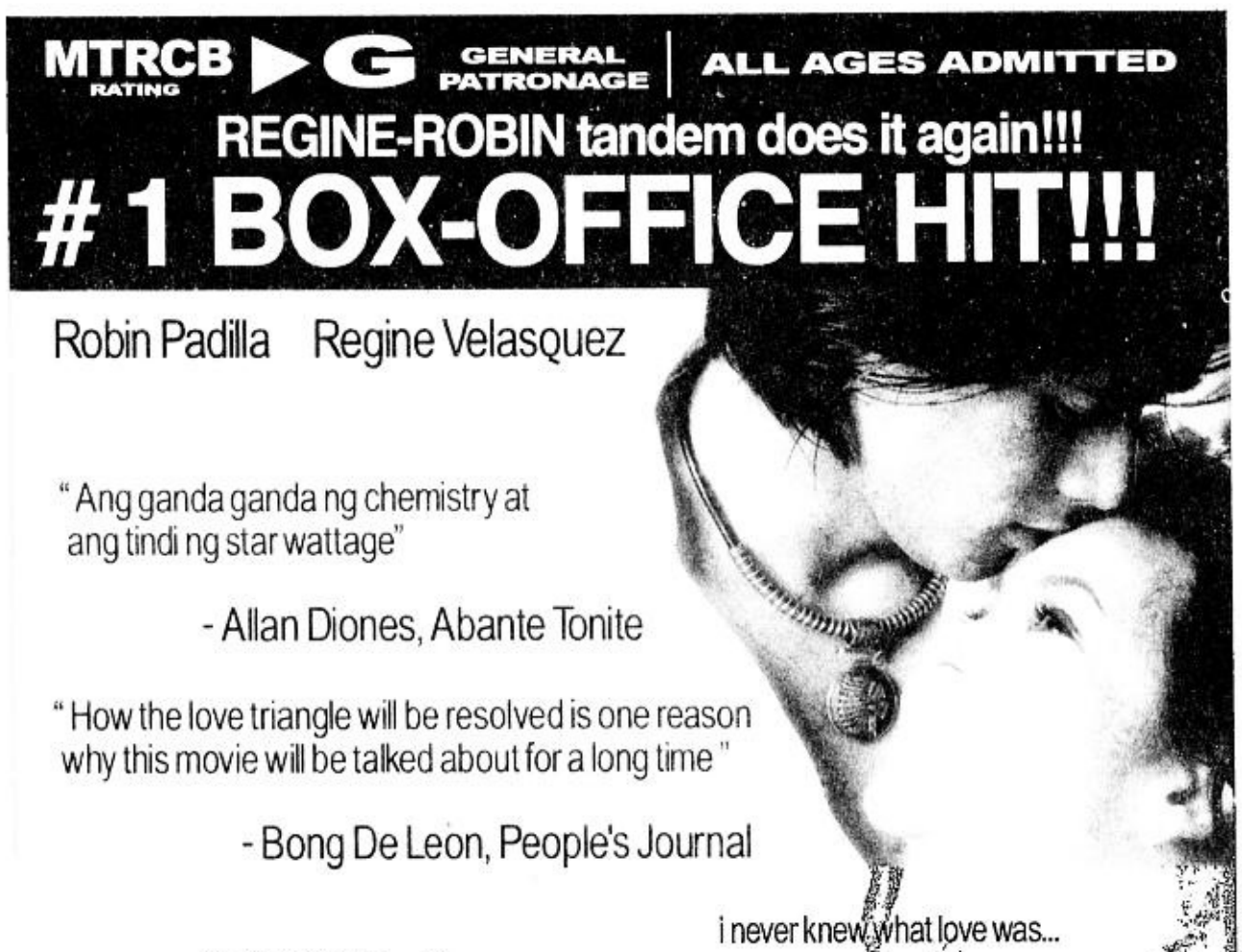
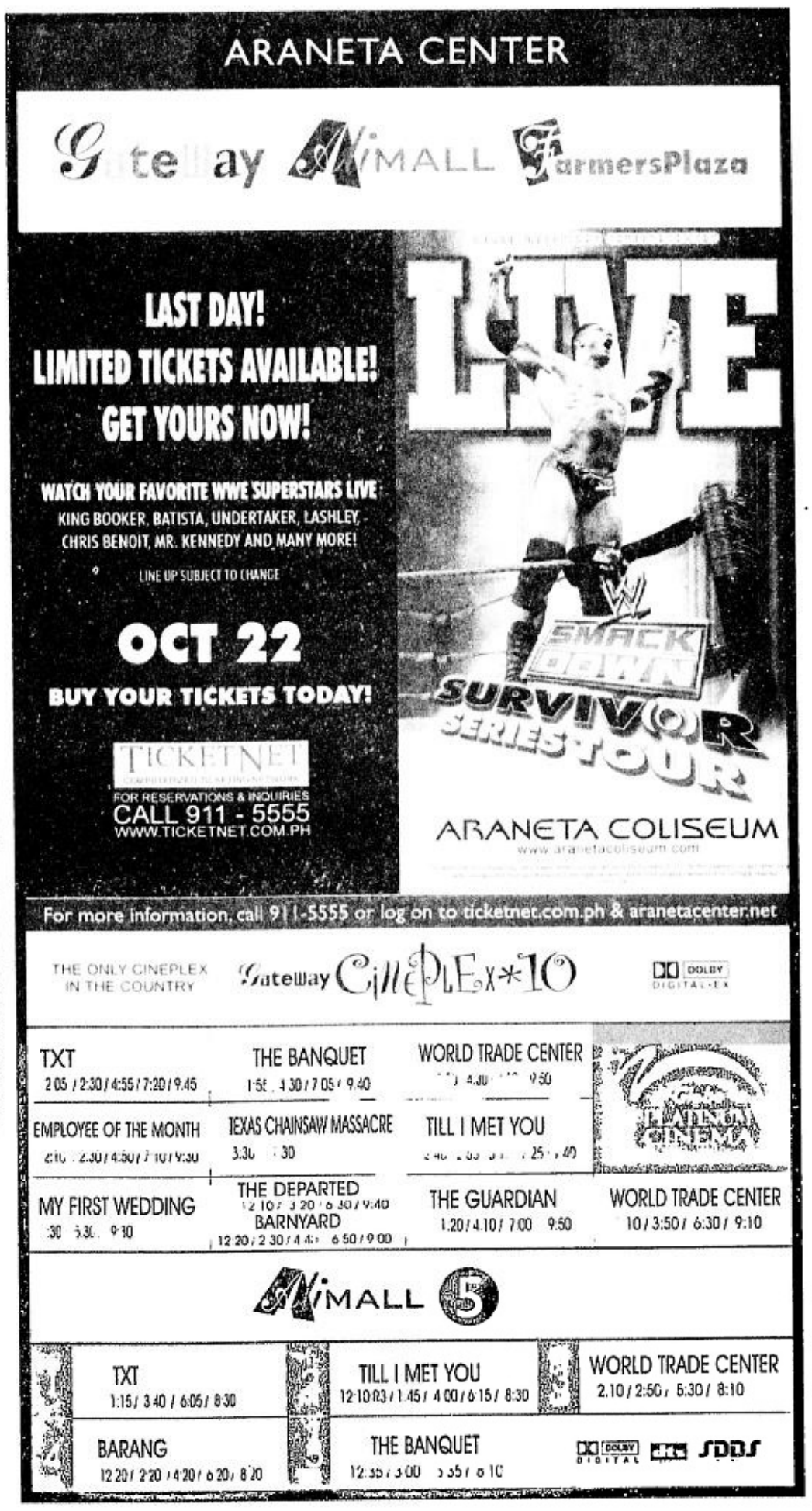








Meet the brown Lucy Liu

The Hollywood star look-alike supports poor, intellectually-gifted kids

BINIBINING Pilipinas-International Denille Lou Valmonte grew up thinking she was less than pretty.

"I had a lot of crushes when I was in grade school but they didn't like me," said the 24-year-old lass. "So I said to myself, 'someday you will look up to me'."

Last March, when Denille won the Miss International crown, a lot of people indeed looked up to her, notably those from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) where she got her degree in hotel and restaurant management.

"I didn't know I was the first national beauty titlist from PUP," said Denille. "I only learned about it when I saw it written on the congratulatory banners posted in the campus."

It took a deal of persistence from her loved ones before she was convinced she had what it takes to be a beauty queen. "I only knew I was somehow beautiful in high school when I started joining, and winning, contests," she confessed.

Now, the local media even calls her the brown Lucy Liu because of her striking resemblance to the Hollywood star. "I'd love to see her in person, just to check who's prettier," Denille said, giggling.

Last week, Denille flew to Tokyo, Japan, together with reigning Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman, for a series of pageant activities.

Lara will then fly, along with Denille and about 60 more delegates, to Beijing, China, where the Miss International pageant culminates on Nov. 11. Denille hopes for a back-to-back victory for the country.

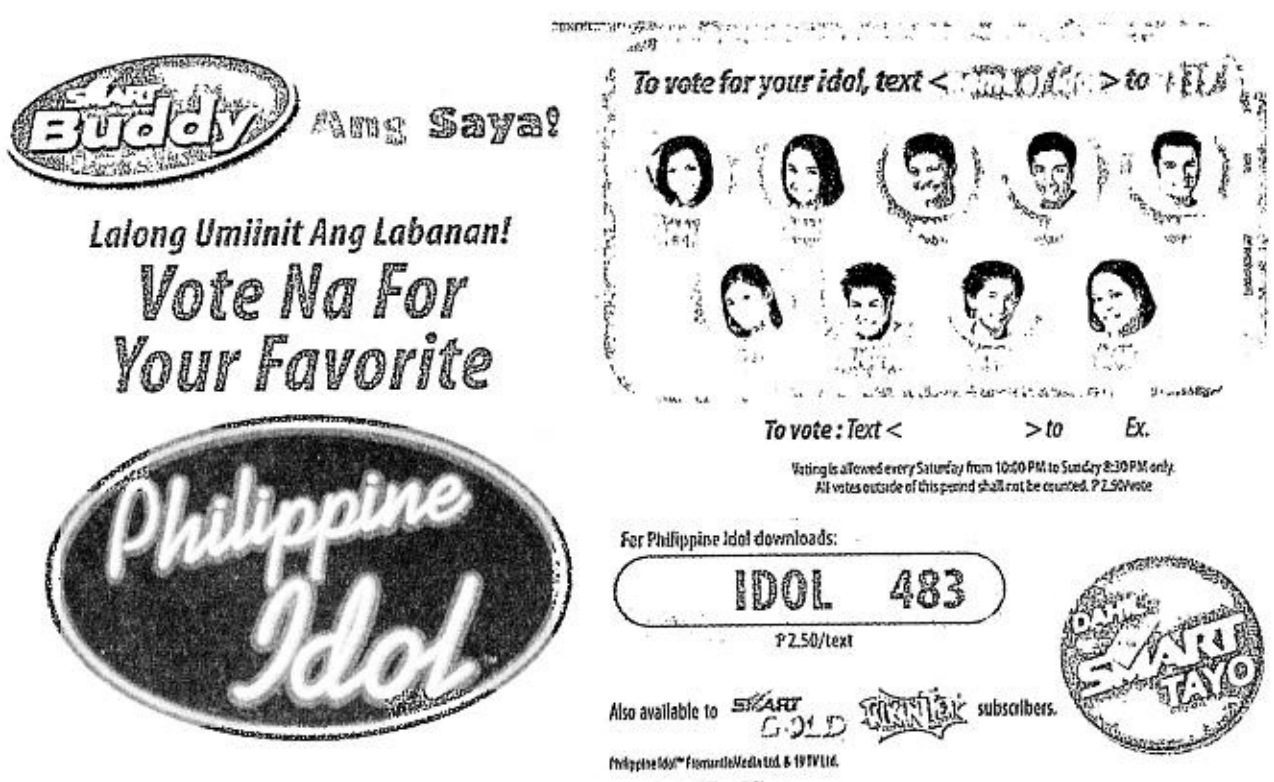
"I don't mind the pressure," Denille said, noting that no country has ever won the Miss International two years in a row. "I will just do my best and hope that the judges will be able to see that I'm worthy of the title."

She has this assurance from Lara: "Nothing is impossible. There's no reason why we can't have another Miss International."

Winning is important for Denille because it will give her the chance to expand her advocacy of sending to school underprivileged but "intellectually-gifted" children.

"With the title, I will be in a position of influence and it will be easier for me to ask people to support the schooling program," she said. "More children, not only in the Philippines but in other countries as well, will then be given the chance to be educated."

DENILLE LOU VALMONTE, Bb. Pilipinas International 2006 (left), with Precious Lara Quigaman RAFFY LERMA



Free Willie

Tondo-based fans of embattled TV host Willie Revillame are collecting P5 coins to contribute to their idol's legal defense fund.

Earlier, two rich supporters of the "Wowowee" host had set up a fund that eventually allowed the recruitment of high-profile lawyer Raymond Fortun into his legal team.

"We are behind him all the way," a Willie loyalist from Tondo told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone call.

Why Willie?

If "his bank accounts are frozen" (according to Fortun), why did Willie exclaim on "Wowowee," that he's taking care of daughter Meryll Soriano's wedding expenses should she decide to marry Bernard Palanca in church? Just asking.

Upstaging dad

Cesar Montano felt proud that his five-year-old daughter Angelina had upstaged him in their Coffee-Mate commercial. "She was fantastic. I was more nervous on the set," he recalled.

But will he allow Angelina to follow in her dad and mom Sunshine Cruz's foorsteps?

He exclaimed: "We want our kids to decide for themselves when they grow up."

CESAR Montano with Angelina

RUSHES

Pirates of the airwaves?

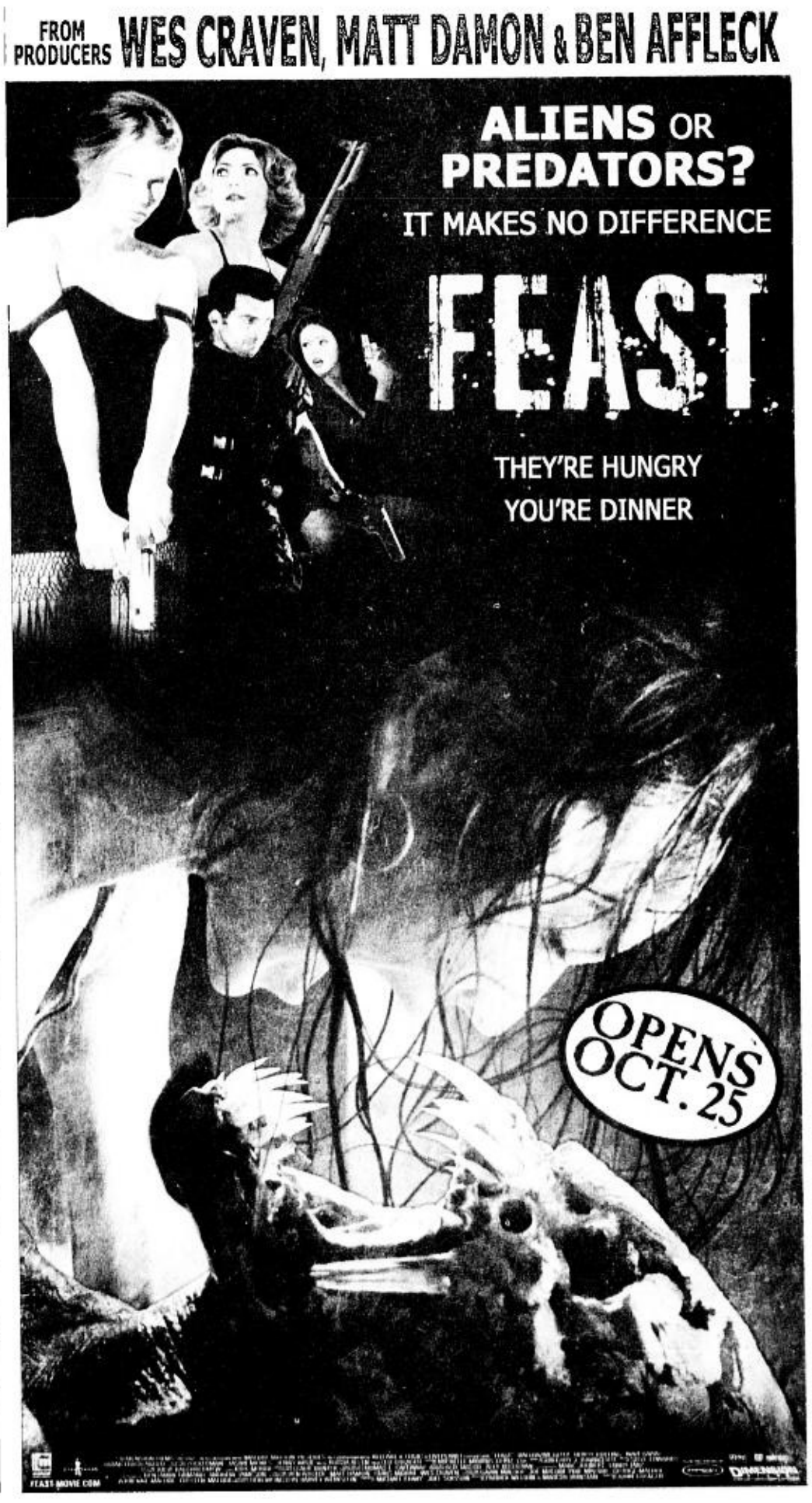
GMA 7 is categorically denying reports that it is pirating ABS-CBN stars Rica Peralejo, Heart Evangelista, Jericho Rosales, Long Mejia and Roderick Paulate.

Jayce C. Perlas, head of GMA 7's entertainment publicity, was adamant: "I do not wish to speculate on the origin of or the motivation behind said misinformation. For the record, we are not inclined to 'pirate' talents from the competition. What I know is these talents are the ones expressing interest to move to GMA Network."

Banned in GMA 7?

As a result of the piracy rumors, GMA 7 has reportedly put on hold its plans to hire ABS-CBN stars as guests on its shows. One scuttlebutt even alleged that Jericho Rosales is banned from GMA 7 for insinuating that he's being wooed by the Kapuso network.

Not true, said Gina Martinez of Genesis, which is now handling Echo's music career. "What I heard is that there is a temporary directive not to guest ABS-CBN stars on GMA 7 shows," Martinez told INQUIRER Entertainment. "It's not limited to Echo; it's for all ABS-CBN stars." Martinez insisted that Genesis does not spread rumors that its stars are being pirated by networks. "We've been in the business for 20 years. That's not our style."



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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2006

11

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Successful candidates should be sales enthusiasts with upscale image who are motivated by accomplishment and the opportunity to earn substantial compensation.

- ❑ Female
- ❑ At least 5 years of successful person-to-person Sales experience or as Front Line Customer Sales Contact.
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- ❑ Result-Oriented with minimum supervision. Self-Motivation and Innovation is a must.
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- ❑ Male or Female
- ❑ At least 1 year sales experience
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- ❑ College Graduate, Excellent English Communication Skills, Computer Literate
- ❑ Seeks high compensation based primarily on results
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We are looking for a dynamic and goal driven individuals that possess the following qualities:

- College Graduate, proficient in oral and written English
- Pleasing personality
- Results-oriented with limited support
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to work long hours as necessary
- Computer literate

Qualified applicants should email or mail their resumé with a 2x2 photo no later than November 03, 2006. Please indicate the position you are applying for at the top of your resume. Send to:

THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR
JRP AD CENTER, INC.
4th Flr. Casmer Bldg. 195 Salcedo St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
manila@johnrobertpowers.com

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers/owners to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the acquisition of lot and building for NTC-13 (CARAGA) Region, Butuan City, to wit.

1) at least 1,000 sq.m. lot or more;
2) with one (1) storey building with at least 200 sq.m. floor area or more;
3) at lease 4 to 5 rooms or more ideal for office space;
4) with toilet;
5) with concrete perimeter fencing and gate;
6) with drainage system;
7) with provision of garage vehicle parking space;
8) accessible to the public;
9) at least 600-800 meters away from the City Hall and to the City proper;
10) along Upper Doongan Road, Butuan City

The approved budget for the contract is P5,000,000.00 and locally funded by the National Government Registration requirements can be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod,** Head, NTC BAC Secretariat NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **23 October 2006**, to be submitted not later than **7 November 2006, 5:00 P.M.** through the NTC-BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **9-10 November 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

Pre-Bid Conference will be on **14 November 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** at the NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **December 5, 2006** at **2:00 P.M.** and **15 December** at **2:15 P.M., respectively.** Bidders shall submit five (5) separate sealed envelopes: one (1) envelope containing the eligibility requirements, two (2) envelopes containing the technical component of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and two (2) envelopes containing the financial component of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Republic Act 9184"** and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) JAIME M. FORTES, JR.
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – October 22 & 29, 2006)

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TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A MARK /// TO MOVE THIS COUNTRY FORWARD.

The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IP Philippines) is the primary agency that administers the intellectual property (IP) system in the country. Our vision is to "foster a creative and innovative Philippines that values, nurtures and uses intellectual property for national development". Through the granting of patents, registration of utility models, industrial designs and trademarks, administrative and adjudication of intellectual property rights (IPR) violations including copyrights, IP Philippines provides protection for artists, inventors, creators and entrepreneurs across all industries.

Our mission is to mobilize knowledge and technology to increase productivity and enhance competitiveness of Philippine industries, small and medium enterprises as well as cultural sectors, and to coordinate the work of government agencies and the private sector in promoting and protecting intellectual property rights.

Make Your Own Mark in Promoting National Development.

As part of its information and education campaign for IPR, IP Philippines is forming the Intellectual Property Training and Research Institute. IP Philippines is screening potential candidates who can act and serve as Deputy Director of the Institute. The Deputy Director will have the following functions:

- Assist in crafting the policies and plans of the Institute;
- Assist in establishing the faculty of lecturers and researchers for the Institute;
- Liaise with the domestic and international partners of the Institute;
- Manage the day-to-day operations of the Institute.

Qualifications:

A Bachelor's Degree in Law or PH. D in the Sciences/Engineering with a solid background in intellectual property, at least two (2) years supervisory or managerial experience, and the ability to grasp and appreciate the multi-disciplinary approach to IP development and management.

A strong commitment to the development of the IP system in the Philippines. Dynamic and results-oriented, and with a very strong work ethic. Excellent oral and written communication skills plus the ability to work with the local and international IP community.

Think you're marked for the position?
Then send your CV to eric.lanado@ipophil.gov.ph
by October 31, 2006.

iP
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PHILIPPINES

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project
(National Project Management Office)
5/F Bonifacio Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

DepED

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date October 15, 2006
Loan No. PH-P200

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply and delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, home economics, industrial arts, libraries, guidance and faculty rooms of the different secondary schools in the Division Offices of Leyte and Biliran, following the schedules below:

Division Office	Issuance of Bid Documents	Time & Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Time and Date of Bid Opening	Venue	Telephone No.
Leyte	October 16-27, 2006	October 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.	November 8, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.	DepED Division Office of Leyte, Palo, Leyte	(053)323-8882
Biliran	October 16-27, 2006	October 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.	November 8, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.	DepED Division Office of Biliran, Naval, Biliran	(053)500-9279

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantities of all the furniture items intended for the selected schools in the Divisions of Leyte and Biliran, per schedule of requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain complete information about the proposed project upon submission of a Letter of Intent and acquire the bidding documents from the Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) Offices at the telephone numbers as identified in paragraph 2.
5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the Cashier of the Division Office of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) only.
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of equivalent percentage to the total bid amount as specified in ITB-7 page 5 of the Instruction to Bidders, must be delivered to the Division Office at the time, date and place as indicated in the above paragraph 2. Said bids will be opened immediately for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. The Division BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **Vicenta C. Allbangbang**
DBAC Chairman
Leyte

(Sgd.) **Jose R. Gaviola**
DBAC Chairman
Biliran

(PDI–Oct. 15 & 22, 2006)

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Verve International would like to inform the general public that we remain the exclusive marketing and distributing arm in the Philippines for Thione International's revolutionary Thione Complex™ products developed by antioxidant expert Dr. Theodore Hersh.

We hereby advise our consumers and partners in business to only purchase the Thione products (with the Verve Thione Complex™, ThioBoost and ThioSkin brands, respectively) from sources duly authorized and recognized by Verve International for their own safety and protection.

Verve International also strongly emphasizes that the patented Thione Complex™ products do not, and were not intended to complement or synergistically work with any of the other leading Glutathione products available in the market today.

On a related note, we would also like to clarify to the public that the sole intent of Thione International founder Dr. Theodore Hersh in his lectures at the 5th Annual Philippine Academy of Clinical Cosmetic Dermatology Convention was to spread the word regarding the powerful synergy of L-Glutathione and Selenium with other important antioxidants, a synergy that is unique to the Thione Complex™.

For any of your inquiries, please call or fax Verve International at (632) 916-0832 or e-mail us at **thioneintl@sbcglobal.net**

(PDI–Oct. 22, 2006)

Watch out for two of this year's biggest job fairs from INQUIRER!

INQUIRER JOB Market
OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT EXPO
October 23 and 24
at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall

INQUIRER JOB Market
EMPLOYMENT EXPO
November 20 to 22
at the Glorietta Activity Center

MAKATI (SPORTS) CLUB, INC.
NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Makati (Sports) Club, Inc. has approved the sale by auction of the shares of the following individuals/corporate stockholders:

STOCKHOLDER	ADDRESS	SC.NO.
1. Danilo E. Suarez (1440)	Unit 8B, Cypress Gardens Cond., Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City	A-1058
2. Magdaleno M. Peña (0273)	Sta. Ana Park, Makati City	A-2457
3. Maria Aurora E. Ceniza (0093)	48 Doña Juana Townhomes, C. Raymundo Ave., Maybunga, Pasig City	A-2523
4. Melvin S. Martin (0699)	Unit 204 Makati Cinema Square Tower, Pasong Tamo, Makati City	A-429
5. Lino P. Nepomuceno (0739)	#42 Galaxy Street, Bel-Air Village IV, Makati City	A-943
6. Chanton Mgt & Dev't. Corp. (1551)	JMA Mining Corporation, 9622 Kamagong Street, Makati City	A-1794
7. Rudy S. Labos & Associates, Inc. (0307)	Rm. 111 Casman Bldg., 1198 Quezon Ave., Quezon City	A-2160
8. Josefina Estrada (0336)	#1 Vinzons Street, Heroes Hill, Quezon City	A-398
9. RFM Corporation (0474)	8/F, RFM Bldg., Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City	A-1578
10. Genesis Properties & Sales Corp. (0959)	Genesis Properties & Sales Corp., 1753 Nicanor Garcia Street, San Miguel Village, Makati City	A-2109
11. Blas F. Ople (0770)	#8 Zalamea Street, Corinthian Gardens, Quezon City	A-861
12. Fernando B. Teodoro (1032)	Ferros Bldg., 176 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City	A-2325
13. Emilio G. Cabrera (0562)	Wrigley Philippines, Inc. P.O. Box 1857 MCPO	A-1403
14. SSC & B Lintas Worldwide Manila (0965)	Lyntas Manila, 17/F, Rufino Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	A-1583
15. Oscar C. Reyes (0869)	AFC bldg., 102 L.P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City	A-580
16. Interface Industrial Corp. (0410)	Interface Bldg., 1679 Dian Street, Makati City	B-926
17. Citadel Shipping Services, Inc. (1536)	Naigai Nitto Logistics Phils., Inc., 3/F, Princess Bldg., 104 Esteban Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City	B-510
18. Apolonio A. Pagaduan (0055)	Suite 12 G/F, South Star Plaza, South Superhighway, Makati City	B-753

The auction sale will be held on 17 November 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at the Club's Dasmariñas Room.

This announcement also serves as a notice and demand to the members/stockholders concerned that the auction of said shares may be avoided if they pay the overdue accounts at anytime during office hours before the auction sale.

(Sgd.) **ROGELIO U. MARASIGAN**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI--Oct. 22, 2006)

IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

Request for Tender

RFT No. 01-2006

1. IOM is a non-profit international organization dedicated to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM performs an array of programs in more than 260 field locations in 100+ countries around the world in various programmatic areas pertaining to migration management. In 2005, IOM's operational budget has reached over USD 500 million. In its 50 years of existence, IOM has been active in the Philippines for over 25 years carrying out various programs. IOM is inviting prospective bidders to apply for eligibility to participate in a tendering process for a supply contract.

2. IOM invites sealed bids from prospective bidders for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Computer Hardware and other Network Peripherals. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar contracts within the last 5 years with a budget of at least **PHP 15.0 Million** in a single contract, and should have qualified key personnel and suitable equipment available for the execution of the supply contract. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of IOM *Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.*

3. Interested bidders are invited to collect the pre-qualification documents, from 23 October to 27 October, 2006 from the IOM Office, located at 25th Flr. Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas 1226 Makati City. The contact number is (632) 848 1260 loc 180 & loc 174 (Look for Clint or Edith) or via e-mail (cogas@iom.int and/or eborda@iom.int).

4. The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Pre-qualification Documents	October 23 – 27, 2006
2. Pre – Selection / Clarification Meeting with Prospective Bidders	October 30, 2006, 4:00 PM.
3. Submission of Pre-qualification Documents	November 6, 2006
4. Notification to Selected Pre-Qualified Prospective Bidders	November 8, 2006

5. IOM assumes no responsibility whatsoever or indemnity towards bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(PDI - Oct. 22, 2006)

RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC.
BY-PASS ROAD, SILANG, CAVITE
NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT RGCI SHARES AT AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC. (RGCI) WILL SELL THE FOLLOWING DELINQUENT SHARES AT A PUBLIC AUCTION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE BY-LAWS, FOR NON-PAYMEN T OF THE MONTHLY DUES AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS:

A-1231 A-1513 A-0989 A-1405 A-0378 A-0189 A-1522 A-0826
A-1677 A-0978 A-0937 A-1313 A-0917 A-0173 A-0513 A-0920
A-0708 A-0652 A-0347 B-0218 B-0218 B-0399 B-0342

THE AUCTION DATE IS SET ON OCTOBER 26, 2006 AT 10:00 O'CLOCK A.M., AT THE TEE PAVILION, RIVIERA GOLF CLUB, INC., SILANG, CAVITE. ALL INTERESTED PARTIES MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
ATTY. ROLANDO G. BORJA
CORPORATE SECRETARY

(PDI – October 22, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Hiring of Janitorial Services
[ITB No. GOP/06-DSWD-017]

1. The *Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)*, through the General Administration and Support Services Group Funds (GASSG) intends to apply the sum of *Eight Million Four Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Three Pesos and 96/100 only (Php 8,439,663.96)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for "Hiring of Janitorial Services" with ITB No. GOP/06-DSWD-017. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the "Hiring of Janitorial Services". The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *DSWD BAC Secretariat* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos *(Php 3,000.00)* starting 4 October 2006. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *DSWD* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *18 October 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the 2nd Floor Administrative Conference Room (Old Building).
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *10:00 a.m on 30 October 2006.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *cash, or manager's check, or cashier's check* and in the amount of at least *Eighty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-Six Pesos and 64/00 only (P84, 396.64)*. Combination of two (2) or more of any of the foregoing forms is not allowed. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *30 October 2006 at 10:00 a.m.* at *the DSWD Central Office 2nd Floor, Old Building, Administrative Conference Room.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

THE BAC CHAIRPERSON
DSWD Bids and Awards Committee
c/o BAC Secretariat
2nd Floor, DSWD Old Building,
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Quezon City
Telefax no.: 951-7116
Trunkline No.: 931-8101 Local 217

(Sgd.) **FLORITA R. VILLAR**
Assistant Secretary for
Policy & Programs Group and
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Oct. 8 & 22, 2006)

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Angeles City 045-626-1487
Calamba City (049) 545-2367
Batangas City 043-980-2048
Davao City 082-227-6789
Head Office 928-8260

INVITATION TO BID
"AS IS WHERE IS"
DAMAGED MOTOR VEHICLES

2000 MITS ADVENTURE JES-505
1996 HONDA CIVIC VTI UJW-228
2004 MITS ADVENTURE XRF-417

For particulars, call 812-4520

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC), a government-owned and controlled corporation with office address at Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, invites all interested parties to participate in the re-bidding of the long-term lease of the property described below:

PROJECT	:	RIVERSIDE AREA National Government Center-Commonwealth Enterprise Zone (NGC-CEZ)
LOCATION	:	Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
AREA	:	7,503 sq.m.
MINIMUM BID	:	Monthly lease rate of P57.00 per sq.m. per month subject to a minimum annual escalation of 5%
TERMS OF LEASE	:	Straight lease for 20 years subject to renewal for another 10 years upon agreement of the parties
OTHER CONDITIONS	:	Payment of six (6) months security deposit and six (6) months advance rental

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Issuance of bid documents and submission of eligibility requirements	Nov. 6 – 17, 2006
Pre-bid conference	Nov. 20, 2006
Deadline of submission and opening of eligibility documents (pass/fail criteria)	Nov. 23, 2006/10:00 am
Notification of eligible/ineligible bidders	Nov. 28, 2006
Start of submission of the Financial Bids/Proposals	Nov. 29, 2006
Deadline for submission and opening of Financial Bids/Proposals	Dec. 19, 2006/2:00 pm

The bidder is advised to inspect the subject property to determine its actual condition. Particulars of the bidding including the bid documents and eligibility requirements may be obtained from the HGC's Project Management and Acquired Assets Disposition Group (PMAADG) at the 4th Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00)** from **November 6 – 17, 2006.** For other inquiries relative to the bidding, please call Ms. Marichu A. Lazaro or Nemia C. Mabulay at tel. nos. 897-3286 or 897-3290.

THE HGC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND/OR TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **CORAZON G. CORPUZ**
Chairperson
Asset Disposition Committee
Riverside Area, NGC-CEZ

(PDI - Oct. 22 & 29, 2006)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that Official Receipt number **105262** of SCANASIA OVERSEAS, INC. is missing and considered null and void.

For further inquiries, please call our office @ 815-0123.

(PDI - Oct. 8, 15 & 22, 2006)

Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

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MAIDYA² COOKDRVER C'GIVER 7286610

Trustmaids Yaya C'giver Maid's cook boy 7281837

Yaya, Cook, H'maid 8969219

YAYA COOK H'MAID 8957507

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PALANAN 470 SQM W/ IMPRVMENT 09175332403

•Proj6 #58Rd3 Comml/Resdl 9210255/9967 / 09178865431

HOUSE & LOT

1.6/1.7M BFP/QROW 8278618

2 STY 272SQM MAYWOOD PQUE 8267026/09202779678

AYALA HGHTS & HILLSIDE BNEW 3STRY 8BR HOMES BY LILLES BLDR 0917-8450712

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New Legarda Subd Bustos Bul 3.1M very nice 09178227788

P1.2M 2BR 2STRY 8054686

•Teachers #32 Masambahln• 9210255/9967 / 09178865431

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TOKYO MANSIONS
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• NO DP •
Mercedes:LA:78 FA:138 4BR,Family Rm 3TB 2Storey Php 2.7M Call 643-8927/09173312287

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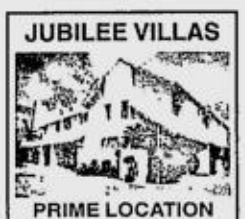
WACK WACK nr XAVIER/ICA 762 East Yulo Street nr Lee 2Unit FA235 LA104 P8.5M 3sty 3CG 5TB 3BR 1Den & 1Mdsrm 09162108937 Tom

JUBILEE VILLAS

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KINGSWOOD P.TAMO 77SQM W/ PARKING 8999497/09209204553

Mand 8Kma RFO 09189418408

MEZZA 12Terms
ORTICIO REALTY7159249

P6.5M front Ateneo 3BRTB w/grg new rev 09194696411

PQUE 1.4M 2BR 10%DP NR MKTI 0917-8069537

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RUSH 4M Nr St Paul U QC Condo 2BR+Mds+3TB+Park owner pays all closing costs Leo 0916 6192933

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Proj6 246m² 3BR 2TB w/ Apt cor Lot • 0917-4042838

CONDO R.BLVD 1.3M 09228755712

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MGATE Silang
PHI P3800 NR Tagaytay

Vermont Park 323m² 5T/m² Nr St LuciaMall 09174042838

Pasig 615m² w/ exsting Bank /Bldg. 0917-4042838

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Nr. Ayala 2br 2tb @P15T/mo Call 0917-9160226

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BrgndyfrtAteneo09194696411

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Paragon 1br FF strm 9316443

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CUBAO 9124605/9124284

Proj 8 4BR 2TB P15T 09179588923

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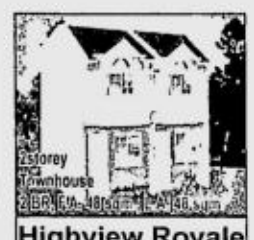
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1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

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1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 7262780

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Notice is hereby given that Stock Cert. #2049 of Professional Services Inc. issued to MOISES ROMEO Q. FAJARDO was declared lost. If found please return to Corporate Office, Medical City Hospital, Pasig City. (PDI-Oct. 15, 22&29, 2006)

OFW CMAN USLoan•4304225

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #7611 Caeg Bldg., dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan Taguig City; Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on **Oct. 28, 2006 at 9:00 AM.** Including all items pawned up to May 2006 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer (PDI-Oct. 22, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice hereby given that the estate of the late Chua Kok Hiong a.k.a. PHILIP UY was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No.35 Page No.8 Book No.531 Series of 2006 of notary public Lucila Lawas-Yutok of Pasig City (PDI - Oct. 8, 15 & 22, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GIL E. MARTINEZ who died last May 23, 2006 has been extrajudicially settled w/ waiver of share by his heirs before notary public Renato Damasing of Las Pinas City per Doc No. 416, Page No. 085, Book No. II, Series of 2006 (PDI- Oct. 22, 29, Nov. 5, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONARDO G. NATERA has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc#192 Page#42 Book#XIII Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Luis Marcos P. Laurel of Makati City. (PDI-Oct. 15, 22, 29, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ERNESTO T. GONZALES and JUANA C. GONZALES has been extradudicially settled among their heirs Before Notary Public ROGELIO AGOOT as Doc No.198 Page No.42 Book No. XVIII Series 2006 (PDI- Oct. 15,22 &29'06)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CATHERINE TUCAY ANDRADA was settled extrajudicially among her heirs before Notary Public Daniel Balanoba of Quezon City as per Doc. No. 24 Page No. 6 Book No. 120 Series of 2006 (PDI-Oct. 8, 15 & 22, 2006)

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE CONCEPCION M. CRUZ OF MARIKINA CITY HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDIALLY SETTLED AMONG HER HEIRS PER DOC. #131, PAGE 27, BOOK 104 SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC JOSE L. STA. ANA. (PDI-OCT 8,15 & 22, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that SMIC Stock Cert.#501 issued to MARIA LOURDES D. MALEON was lost. If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued. (PDI-Oct. 15, 22, 29, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Centro Escolar University Stock Certificate No. 540 covering 48 shares of stocks and Stock Certificate No. 5437 covering 157 shares that were left to Robustiano Maximino Sison by Juan Martin Sison were lost. If no contest received, new certificates will be issued. PDI-Oct. 22, 29 & Nov. 5, 2006)

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE
O, Holy St. Jude Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near kinsman to Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart, I humbly beg your great power to come to my assistance. Help me in present and most urgent need. In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. St. Jude, pray for us and all who invoke thy aid. Pray this 9X a day for 9 consecutive days. On the 8th day your prayer will be answered. Note: This is a testimony. WVN 2006

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit Thou make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal, You who give me the Divine Gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the maternal desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.
Pray this for three consecutive days without stating your wish. On the third day, it will be granted no matter how difficult it is. Promise to publish this prayer as soon as your wish is granted. 101806 WVN

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT FROM EARL DEL ROSARIO!!!

Thank You Holy Spirit
From Gemma P. Santos

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We, the family of the late

LYDIA DIMLA VILLANGCA

March 20, 1931 – September 14, 2006

express our heartfelt gratitude to those who condoled with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, cards and messages of sympathy, gave donations, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rights and memorial services and who in countless ways helped and comforted us during our moments of bereavement.

Please continue to pray for her eternal repose in Heaven.

In celebration of the 1ST BIRTH ANNIVERSARY to eternal life of

Angelito Espiritu Bautista

"Sonny"

(December 28, 1939 – October 23, 2005)

his wife **Teresita (Baby) Garcia**, children **Apples, Orange & Jet**, and **Peaches**, grandchildren **Jelo & Isabela**, sisters & brother in law, **Ledy & Tristan, Daisy** and **Peachy**, request all relatives & friends to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered in the following churches:

October 22, Sunday

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL SHRINE, New Manila QC	4:00 pm

October 23, Monday

ADORATION CONVENTS, S.Sp.S.A.P. (PINK SISTERS)	
CONVENT OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, Baguio City	6:00 am
CONVENT OF THE DIVINE MERCY, Tagaytay City	6:00 am
CONVENT OF ST. JOSEPH, Hemady, QC	6:00 am
CONVENT OF DIVINE PEACE, Banilad, Cebu	6:00 am
CONVENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, Seminary Road, Davao City	6:00 am
CONVENT OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, Flores Ruteng, Indonesia	6:00 am
IMMACULATE CONCEPCION CATHEDRAL, Cubao, QC	6:00 am

October 23, Monday

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS PARISH, Marikina City	6:00 am
SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA PARISH, Paranaque City	6:00 am & 7:00 pm
ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, Paranaque City	6:15 am & 12:00 nn
COLEGIO SAN AGUSTIN CHAPEL, Makati City	6:45 am
INA NG LAGING SAKLOLO, Tagaytay City	7:00 am
OUR LADY OF LORETO, Sampaloc, Manila	7:00 am
CHRIST THE KING SEMINARY, Quezon City	6:00 pm
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL SHRINE, New Manila, Quezon City	6:00 pm
OUR LADY OF REMEDIES PARISH, Malate, Manila	6:00 pm
FOCOLARE CENTER Tagaytay City	6:00 pm

CLASSIFIEDS

NFA expects to buy bulk of palay main crop

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. said the NFA is confident of buying the bulk of this ear's palay main harvest with the early release of procurement budget and an increase in the number of buying stations especially in major palay producing areas nationwide.

The NFA, he said, could take advantage of the reported 14 percent hike in the country's 3rd quarter palay production as typhoon Milenyo did not adversely affect harvestable areas, bringing closer to reality the forecast 15.4 million metric tons palay produce this year.

As early as September this year, a total of P1 B for palay buying has already been released to the agency's regional offices. The NFA has also fielded mobile procurement teams to augment the stationary buying stations in the agency's warehouses, Tan said.

Mobile procurement teams, he added, serve farmers in remote and far-flung areas who find it hard to deliver their produce to the NFA. The agency has todate a total of 349 buying and mobile procurement teams nationwide.

Farm-gate prices for palay presently average at P 10.70 per kilogram nationwide as against NFA's support price of P10 on top of the additional incentives of P0.50 per kilogram for clean and dry palay. As of first week of October, highest palay ex-farm price was monitored at P12.01 per kilogram in Central Visayas.

The NFA also allows farmers to use its post harvest facilities at minimal fee to improve the quality of their produce. While the main harvest traditionally starts in October, the NFA started buying in September targeting farmers who planted their crop early.

The NFA was able to buy 109,868 bags of palay from farmers in September equivalent to 76 percent of its 144,950 bags target. As the agency's procurement operations start to peak, Tan expressed optimism the NFA will be able to buy the targetted volume of 1.82 million bags of palay until the year ends.

The agency bought a total of 40,537 bags of palay during the first week of October. For the months of November and December, the NFA is targeting to buy 679,850 and 408,050 bags, respectively. For more information on the NFA's palay buying program, the public may send their queries via Text NFA with mobile number 0917-6210927.

VICENTE VERA CRUZ VALERIO

of Unisan, Quezon

(October 27, 1923 – October 20, 2006)

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 20, 2006 at the age of 82.

His loving wife, **Alice**; children **Gloria Marie, Robert & Carol**; grandchildren **Vincent & Venedict**; sister **Leticia**; and all relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Mabini Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque, (inside Manila Memorial Park).

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 24, 2006 after the 1:00 PM Mass.

EDILBERTO P. DADUFALZA

(Boy/Ruben)

29 October 1951 – 08 October 2006

We, his bereaved family entrust him to God our Father and request all his friends to pray for him.

His wake will be at the U.P. Delaney Hall from 27-29 October 2006 and will be laid to rest at the crypt of Good Shepherd Cathedral, Fairview on 29 October 2006.

CAESAR CEDRIC "Judge" Agnir III

went home to our Father in heaven on October 18, 2006

His loving parents **BUTCH** and **LISA**; brother **ALVIN KYLE**, family and friends thank all who loved him while he was with us.

Interment will be on Wednesday, 25th of October, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City. Details can be obtained from family members.

LA FUNERARIA CATALINA
Division of Paz Memorial Services Inc.
(Since 1969)

We, also known as **PAZ LIFE**, are pleased to announce that our funeral service division has been in operation since October 1, 2006 at 1501 CM Recto cor. T. Mapua, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Please bear with us while renovation work is in progress and we continue to provide funeral services to the community.

Tels: 749-43-19, 749-95-03, 740-45-80, 741-19-98, 741-3702, 741-6667

HECTOR O. DEL ROSARIO
President
PAZ MEMORIAL SERVICES Inc.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

REV. FR. LINO BAJAR ROSERO

would like to express profound gratitude for your spontaneous love, sympathy and support for his untimely demise on October 10, 2006.

We find strength & we are humbly grateful to God in knowing that he touched so many lives & organizations in his concerns for others. He will continue living on in our hearts & through the lives we lead as testament to his legacy of love.

JAIME P. TORRES

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 18, 2006 at the age of 54.

His bereaved partner **MERLENE**; children **ROY, JEM, DANAH**; brothers & sisters; nephews & nieces; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. He will be transferred to San Isidro Chapel, Bo. Matimbo, Malolos, Bulacan on Monday, October 23, 2006.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at the Pamana Memorial Park, Malolos, Bulacan after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE OF THANKS

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

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I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

TOMAS OLIVER DEL CASTILLO, JR.

of Vigan, Ilocos Sur

U.P. Law Class of 1962
PM, Hiram Lodge No. 88

Peacefully joined his Creator
on October 18, 2006.

His wife **Ruby Castro**, children and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Please omit flowers. Donations to Retrouvaille Manila will be most appreciated.

"In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places. I am indeed going to prepare a place for you and then I shall come back to take you with me that where I am you also may be." **John 14: 2-3**

PAUL LACHICA CHANG

returned to his Father on October 19, 2006, feast of St. Paul of the Cross at the age of 61.

His loving wife, **Jessieline** and his children **Paulynn**; **Mike** and wife **Jenny**, and **Mark**; his parents **Tomas** (†) and **Zenaida** (†) **Chang**; parents-in-law **Santiago** (†) and **Conmemoracion** (†) **Concepcion**; his brothers and sister, **Thomas Jr.**, **Antonio**, **Dolly** (†), **Alberto**; in-laws, **Mimi Purisima**, **Mercy Hernandez**, **Joe Ting**, **Susie Dasalla**, **Leonardo**, **Adolfo** and **Teodoro Concepcion** and their families, relatives and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of Paul's soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City with Masses at 8:00 p.m. each day. The funeral Mass will be held on Monday, October 23, at 9:00 a.m. at the main church. Cremation follows immediately after.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
— 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

DANIELA "NEIL" S. DEL ROSARIO

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband ***Ruben*** *on October 20, 2006 at the age of 84.*

Her children **Ruben Jr.** and **Milet**, **Judy** (†), **Susan** (†) and **Mike**, **Jimmy** (†) and **Lynn**, **Ruby** and **Dino Sr.**, **Joy** and **Neil**, **Nonong** and family, **Naty** and **Tony**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, brother **Gabriel** request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel One, Loyola Marikina and may be viewed beginning 7:00 o'clock in the evening of Sunday, October 22, 2006.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 26, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit exalts in God my Savior. For he has ruled with mercy on my lowliness. And my name will be forever exalted, for the Almighty God has done great things for me, and Holy is His Name."

- Magnificat

In loving memory of

Lydia Abad Punzalan

who peacefully returned to her Creator, and joined her late husband German on the 19th of October at the age of 89.

Her bereaved children Fiorello and Lucy, Edilberto, Edgardo and Estelita, Josefina and Dr. Elias Nadal, Elpidio and Ligaya, German Jr. and Fe, Antonio, Virginia, Ma. Luisa and Rene Louis Zaide, Rosario and Lenard Carlos,

grandchildren Pamela, Fiorello Jr., Patricia, Marc, Kevin, Anne Marie, Elizabeth, Edward, Martinelli, Clarisse, Marielle, Eleanor, Clarisse, Christina, Maureen, Jean Louis, Martin Jose, Vittorio Jesus, Lupe Maria,

great-grandchildren Maliah, Kaylani, Louise,

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Lydia lies in state at the Jose Rizal room at La Funeraria Paz at Manila Memorial, Sucat Paranaque until Monday, October 23, 2006.

Interment will follow after the Holy Mass on Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at 9 AM at St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEDIP)
DepED
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
5th Floor, Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 635-9822; 631-0673; Telefax No. 635-9826

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : October 11, 2006
Loan No. : PH-200
IFB No. : SEDIP-2006-EQPT-JBIC

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the Supply and Delivery of School Equipment to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of School Equipment to Selected Secondary Schools following the schedule below:

Equipment Package	Issuance of Bidding Documents	Bid Opening
B. Math and Physics Equipment C. Industrial Arts and Home Economics Equipment	Starting on October 13, 2006	November 28, 2006

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete items comprising a lot. A bidder may opt to submit bids for one (1) or more lots.
4. For the purpose of this bid, eligible bidders shall be those who have the experience in selling, supply, delivery, and distribution of school equipment to remote areas.
5. Interested eligible bidders may inspect and obtain the bidding documents from the Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, with Tel. Nos. (632) 636-6543 and 632-1361 local 2019. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph; http://www.procurementservice.org** or **http://www.sedip.ph.**
6. Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date indicated in paragraph 2 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00) in cash for each equipment package.
7. All bids shall be submitted together with the required bid security of not less than 2% of the total bid amount on the date indicated in paragraph 2 not later than 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
8. A pre-bid conference for the two (2) equipment packages shall be held at the address stated in paragraph 7 on October 26, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.
9. The DepED reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of contract without incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **RAMON C. BACANI**
Undersecretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI – Oct. 15 & 22, 2006)

NOTICE OF PROCUREMENT
AIR QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM
USAID Energy and Clean Air Project

PA Consulting is planning to implement an Air Quality Monitoring Program in Davao City and is seeking expressions of interest from qualified firms with capabilities to implement the following tasks:

- Implement an air quality monitoring program (AQMP) in Davao City with the end-result of establishing PM10/PM2.2 levels in a strategic area;
- Ascertain the multi-elemental composition and Black Carbon concentration of the air particulate samples and conduct a source apportionment study using the data collected from the AQMP; and,
- Enhance local institutional capability in air quality management by improving skills for PM 10/2.2 monitoring, analysis, and utilization of results for local policy development and advocacy.

Selection of firms will be conducted by an open competitive tender process for shortlisted firms from demonstrate capabilities and experience in the aforementioned tasks.

Interested firms are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) which should contain a statement of qualifications on or before November 3, 2006. The EOI may be submitted by hard copy, FAX, or e-mail.

Contact:

Renato D. Galang
ECAP Contracts Administrator

Contact Numbers:
Address : Unit 2606, 26th Floor, Raffles Corporate Center
F. Ortigas Jr. Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. : (632) 914-1106 to 09 • Fax No. (632) 914-0005
Email address: **ecap@ecap.com.ph**

(PDI–Oct. 22, 2006)

NOTICE

Clarence L. Mempin
Purok Crossing 8, Barangay Tangub, Bacolod City

The above is no longer connected with COMGLASCO AG CORP. since 30 September 2006. Any transaction entered into with him shall no longer be honored by the company.

(PDI–Oct. 22, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development 4
BATANGAS REGIONAL HOSPITAL
Training & Teaching
(Batangas City)

Project Reference Number: 06-02
Security Services
Treatment and Rehabilitation Center
Tagaytay City

October 12, 2006

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Batangas Regional Hospital, through its Hospital Bids and Awards Committee (HBAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project for Treatment & Rehabilitation Center, Tagaytay City.

DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget Estimate	Pre Bid Conference	Issuance of Bid Documents	Opening of Bids	Amount of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)
SECURITY SERVICES	P1,620,000.00	November 15, 2006 1:30 pm	Nov. 6-10, 2006 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Supply Office BRH	Nov. 28, 2006 1:30 pm	P1,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification on the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (Php1,000.00) to the Batangas Regional Hospital Cashier.

The Batangas Regional Hospital assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **ALFRED ALLEN E. BUENAFE, MD, FPCS, FPSGS**
HBAC Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 15 & 22, 2006)

National Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus in the Philippines and center of devotion in Asia

WHAT STARTED OUT AS AN INSPIRED vision and dream of Magnificat Corporation's chairman, Rafael J. Dizon, will soon become a reality. The proposed National Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus is now in its finishing stages of construction (95% complete) and soon, on May 17, 2007, the Solemn Dedication (inauguration) of the Shrine will take place.

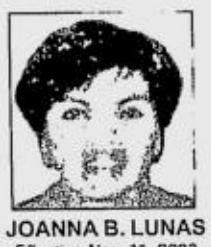
As of her feast day, October 1, 2006, the shrine exterior has taken shape, the church area almost finished (in fact, we had our mass in her honor celebrated by Bishop Tumulak in the shrine itself). There were about 1,500 people who came and celebrated mass with us. Guests were given a rose each as they enter the main church. During the final blessing, guests raised up their roses with their petitions, knowing in their hearts that their prayers will be answered by Jesus thru St. Therese's miraculous intercession.

Inspired by this overwhelming and moving experience, all efforts are being done for the main church to be fully completed so that the "Misa de Gallo" mass will be held in this beautiful shrine.

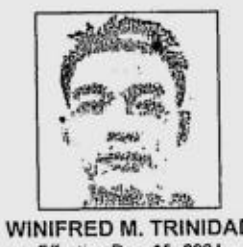
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The following are no longer connected with **GLOBALFLEX CORPORATION**, with office address at Doña Julita Bldg., 112 Kamuning Road cor. K-E St. Quezon City. Any transaction entered into by these individuals in behalf of GlobalFlex Corp. shall not be honored by us.

ALLAN JOSEPH E. CALDINA
Effective Nov. 23, 2003



JOANNA B. LUNAS
Effective Nov. 11, 2002

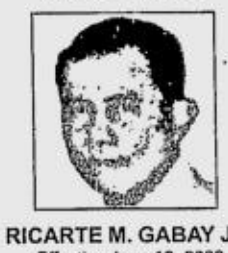


WINIFRED M. TRINIDAD
Effective Dec. 15, 2004

LEO M. MURING
Effective July 1, 2003

PRINCE V. SABLAN
Effective Sept. 9, 2005

RESTITUTO S. FELOMINO JR.
Effective March 3, 2006



RICARTE M. GABAY JR.
Effective June 19, 2002

RITCHIE T. CARPIO
Effective March 20, 2006

CHRISTOPHER S. MIRASOL
Effective Sept. 10, 2004

For further information please contact us at (02) 925-0660 / (02) 920-3203.

BY: GLOBALFLEX MANAGEMENT

(PDI - Oct. 15 & 22, 2006)

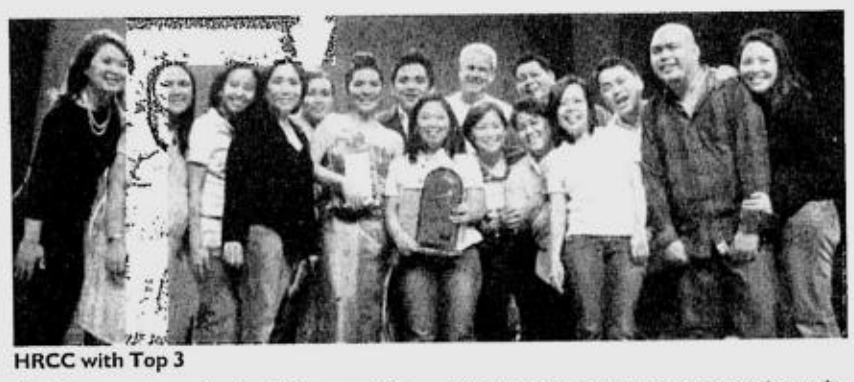
Idol search announces qualifiers

JUST A WEEK AFTER THE CONTACT Center got the limelight for allegedly causing high mental disorders among its workers, the Human Resources Contact Center (HRCC) held the first ever Contact Center Idol. It featured the best and most promising performers from the various call centers in the country.

The HRCC is an informal organization of HR Managers and practitioners in the Philippines' sunshine industry. It has been in existence for three years now and has been very active in promoting strategic human resource management within the contact center while increasing the information of most Filipinos about the industry.

The event was held at the PhilAm Life Auditorium in United Nations Avenue. It was participated by 15 different contact centers, each represented by their own respective talented employees who showcased their prowess in live singing performance. The contestant companies were Advanced Contact Solutions, Dell, People Support, Cyber City Teleservices, Crescent Citigroup, Global 9, AIG-BPSI, Sutherland, Qinteraction, HSBC, Teletech, Sykes Asia, Ambergris Solutions, HTMT, and Teleperformance. Each of the contestants sang their choice of fast songs. In the midst of the contestants performances, cheers from their respective officemates and colleagues filled the auditorium. There were banners and streamers which further heated up the night as the contestants tried to outdo each other in a friendly and entertaining way.

At the end of the first round, 3 contestants were announced to have qualified into the final round. They were Joy Canilang (ACS), Elizabeth Pascual (Teletech), and Paul Michael Belen (HSBC). Each of the 3 finalists rendered their slow songs to display their versatility in singing. Belen (HSBC) sang Stevie Wonder's Lately; Pascual (Teletech) awed the crowd with her rendition of I Have Nothing by Whitney Houston, and Canilang (ACS) displayed poise and confidence while singing Houston's Run To you. After much roaring and wild support, ACS Joy Canilang emerged as the First Contact Center Idol, besting 14 other contestants. Pascual of Teletech and Belen of HSBC came out as runners up. It was tough call for the event's judges who were led by Carlo Orosa as each and every contestant were very talented.



HRCC with Top 3

It was a one of a kind event ever to have been witnessed in the history of the Contact Centers. While friendly sports competitions abound in the industry and even on other industries, it was the first time for Filipinos to witness singing competition within a growing and promising industry. Beyond the singing talents of the contestants, dance numbers were also presented by HTMT, Ambergris and ACS employees which sealed the fact that contact center employees are have talents over and beyond the walls of their respective offices.

What made the event more special was the fact that it was conceptualized and created by the Human Resource Managers and Practitioners within the Contact Center Industry (HRCC). As much as HRCC is active in promoting and improving the welfare of the employees and the contact center companies, it is also committed to providing venues where the people in the industry can come out, have fun, and enrich themselves.

The event was made possible through the sponsorships of: Philam Life, Thinking Cap Inc., Mirof and World Pacific, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Future Perfect, Nexys, Human Capital Asia, IRM, Maxicare, Citibank, Sodexho Pass, VJ Graphics, Frio Mixx and Punongbayan and Araullo.

Just as when talks about the contact center and mental disorders were buzzing, the people in the contact center industry came out to show that indeed there are a lot of things to be discovered and wondered within the world of the contact center. That beyond the limited perceptions of others, much more is in store from the most watched and admired industry.

People, Events & Products

Travel packages to Ilocos and Banaue

DISCOVERING YOUR COUNTRY AND TAKING the time to visit historical sites is not only culturally enriching; it is also spiritually inspiring. Ilocos and Banaue are just two of the most popular places to visit in the country not only because of the scenic spots but also because of its historical significance. Engrande Travel and Tours makes it possible for tourists to visit and marvel at important sites within three days. See the wonderful beach of Pagudpud, the magnificent Malacañang of the north, brick churches, and go back in time at the Vigan Heritage Site. There are still many places that to see, and other things to do. Shopping is always a must when going on a trip. Don't let the trip pass without getting some souvenirs: from shirts, the famous Ilocos longganisa, sukang Iloko, and chichacorn delights. This October, Engrande Travel has a schedule of the Ilocos trip on Oct. 27-29. And Banaue tour on Nov. 3-5. For more information on the tour call 851-0361; mobile 0921-9796165; or e-mail engrandephils@yahoo.com.ph.

REAAA conference

THE COUNTRY'S ROAD CONSTRUCTION industry is eyeing big business from the staging in Manila of the prestigious international conference of the Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia (REAAA) next month. The conference, slated at the Philippine International Convention Center on Nov. 20-24, is expected to generate business opportunities for the country's road contractors and suppliers since it will be attended by more than a thousand members of the global road engineering industry, including its corporate sector, according to the Road Engineering Association of the Philippines (REAP), which is co-organizing the event with the REAAA - Philippine chapter, and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). Topping the event is the 81st and 82nd REAAA Governing Council Meeting, which will be presided by its president, Salvador A. Pleyto, the first-ever Filipino to hold the position since it was organized in 1973. A coinciding event will be the 5th Meeting of the Heads of Road Authorities (Hora) in the region that will include the ministers and secretaries of public works departments of member-governments. More information can be obtained from event manager Fiera de Manila Inc (tel. +632-8960639, fax +632-8960637, email fiera@info.com.ph, and websites www.reaaaconference.com.ph and www.fmi.com.ph).

Wendy's many firsts

DURING ITS 23-YEAR HISTORY, WENDY'S Hamburgers has scored many "firsts" in the local fastfood industry. Among them: the first quick service restaurant to offer a salad bar; the first to successfully introduce Hot-Stuffed Baked Potatoes, rich in vitamins and minerals and low in sodium; the first hamburger restaurant to offer 24-hour food service in strategically stores aside from having an on-call 24-hour delivery service; the first to succeed at value meal concept; the first to include healthy alternatives to its traditional menu; the first to employ deaf and mute as part of the team. In addition to its Salad Bar, Wendy's introduced its newest and bigger pre-packed fresh salads dubbed "Wendy's Salad Sensations." Wendy's Hamburgers ensures the highest degree of consumer service by strictly maintaining and adhering to its quality, service, cleanliness, and value. It keeps the standards consistent in all Wendy's outlets Wendy's further strengthened its delivery service with the adoption of a centralized delivery system - 533-3333 - for customers to avail themselves of Wendy's products 24 hours a day, everyday!

IP Phils to provide free consultation on IPR

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE (SME) owners, inventors, entrepreneurs, or anyone with patent, trademark or design concerns can consult Intellectual Property (IP) experts at the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IP Philippines) for free during all Saturdays in October. During Open House, visitors will have an opportunity to have one-on-one counseling sessions with IP legal practitioners and experts about patenting, branding, and voluntary licensing. They may inquire about the benefits of registering their intellectual properties and the consequences of IP rights infringement. IP Philippines will provide its Open House services from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The organization will also accept applications, documents, and payments during those Saturdays. IP Philippines will give a special 10 percent discount on filing fees for all Intellectual Property applications during IPR Week, the last week of the month, Oct. 23-27.

14th TravelTour Expo '07

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR DREAM vacation choices on Feb. 9, 10, and 11 2007, as the 14th Travel Tour Expo (TTE), the largest trade and consumer event of the travel industry is slated at the Megatrade Halls of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. With the theme 14th TravelTour Expo: Gateway to Your Dream Vacation, TTE '07 is a venue for exhibitors and sponsors providing information and great discounts on tickets, cruises, and tour packages to various domestic and foreign destinations. Product presentations, daily raffle draws, entertainment, games, and surprises await TTE visitors. For inquiries, contact the PTAA at 552-0026 to 29 or the event manager Fairs & More at 759-6680, e-mail traveltour@fairsandmore.com.ph, or log on to www.ptaatraveltourexpo.com.ph.

Woodrose Family Bazaar

ONLY TWO MONTHS TO GO BEFORE Christmas. Shop now and avoid the last-minute Christmas rush. On Oct. 28 and 29, (Saturday and Sunday), the Woodrose Alumnae Association will host the 9th Woodrose Family Bazaar at the Cuenca Community Center, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City. This event is organized annually by the Woodrose Alumnae Association for the benefit of the Teacher Development Fund as well as the Binhi Scholarship Fund. The Teacher Development Fund sponsors the continuing professional development of Woodrose teachers in line with the school's commitment to academic excellence. Being grateful for their integral education in Woodrose, the alumnae give back to their community through the Binhi Scholarship Fund that supports the schooling of underprivileged children. To mark their 20th jubilee, Woodrose Class of '87 has taken on the reins of organizing the bazaar this year, headed by Pauline Calero-Eizmendi. The Woodrose Family Bazaar is where you can find the best buys and many beautiful and unique items. There's no entrance fee and parking is free. It's truly the place to go to with the whole family for hassle-free shopping.

Sin Nombre's 75th year

SIN NOMBRE CLUB DE LAGUNA FOUNdation, Inc will celebrate its 75th year with a dinner reception on Jan. 20, 2007 from 6 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko. The main highlights of the celebration include the Rigodon de Honor of the Club officers, government and members of the diplomatic community and proclamation of the Club's Muse. For more information on Sin Nombre's 75th year celebration call Lito Almario at 941-1289 or 0917-850-8106 or Nena Millares at 049-246-1489 or 0915-782-9648.

Datu Marikudo search

THE SEARCH IS ON FOR THE NEXT DATU Marikudo male model, a unique contest based on the qualities of the legendary Western Visayas hero. Now on its 4th annual staging, Match Events Productions headed by producer Bess Tonel, is calling on all males, 18 to 25 years old, with excellent physiques and healthy dispositions to bring their 3R headshots, black shirts and swimwear to the Ilustrado Restaurant in Intramuros for screening on Oct. 22 from 1 to 6 p.m. The qualified contestants will be flown to Boracay for the Grand Finals on Jan. 18, 2007 coinciding with the Ati-Atihan Festival celebrations in Aklan. Event sponsors are MBRS Lines, Rustan's Essenses, Red Coconut Beach Hotel-Boracay, Ilustrado Restaurant, A-Rock Beach Resort-Boracay, Island Chicken Inasal-Boracay, Smoke Resto D'Mall-Boracay, Juice Bar-Boracay, Island Rose, GAS keep it simple, Cardline Inc., Café Breizh-Boracay, Gasthof Café Deli and Grill-Boracay, Summer Place Bar-Boracay, Napoleon Sea Sports-Boracay, Fruitas fresh from Babot's Farm, and Trans Ventures Tours. For inquiries, you can e-mail matcheventsproductions@yahoo.com.ph.

ABS-CBN Foundation at 6th World Bazaar Festival

SETTING THE TRADITION FOR THE country's grandest Christmas exposition, Worldbex Services International (WSI) teams up with ABS-CBN Foundation Inc as it prepares for the 6th World Bazaar Festival, slated on Dec. 7-17, at the World Trade Center. Showcasing the latest shopping trends with the most affordable prices, the 6th World Bazaar Festival promises to be an enjoyable day of fun and entertainment. For inquiries, you may call tel. nos. 531-6350 or 531-6374 and look for Armand Bernardino or you may send e-mail at info@worldbex.com.

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We accept walk-in applicants in our Alabang site from Mondays to Fridays, 9am to 5pm and on Saturdays from 9am to 12nn.

For U-Belt applicants, we accept walk-ins Mondays to Sundays, 10am to 7pm.

For information on how to apply, text CVG HELP to 2308 Globe/Touch Mobile or to 2951 Smart/AMP/Talk & Text.

Our Alabang and Makati recruitment sites will be operational on October 24, 2006.

RECRUITMENT SITES

Commonwealth Office
2/F Diliman Commercial Center, #46 Don Mariano Marcos Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
(02)756-7088

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone, Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1688

Makati Office
Convergys One, 6796 Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
(02)756-7188

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square 1150 España Boulevard cor. Padre Campa St. Sampaloc, Manila
(02)735-2006

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, #4 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7678

Cebu Office
R. Arcenas St., Arcenas Estate Banawa Hills, Cebu City
(032)416- 5810

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9:00 AM to 3:00 PM up to October 27, 2006

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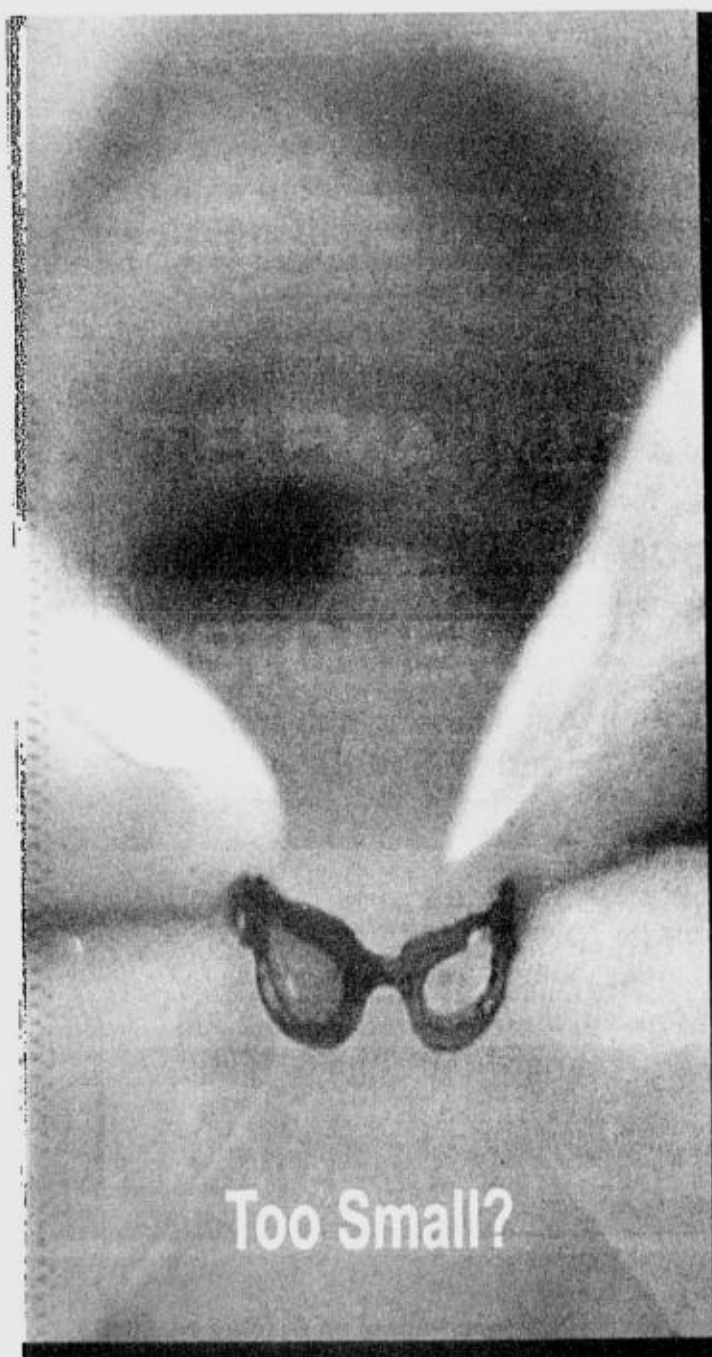

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CI/APPRAISERS
Relevant Bachelor's degree; w/ 1-3 yrs. exp. in property appraisal, pref. gained from banks/similar financial institutions; pref. licensed appraiser

RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICER
Relevant Bachelor's degree; w/ at least 2 yrs. exp. records in retrieval, maintenance, & disposal of record; w/ training on records management

RESEARCH SPECIALIST
Graduate of Business Administration, Economics/related course; w/ at least 2 yrs. exp. in policy-related research & industry studies; w/ at least 8 hours training on research methods & analysis; computer literate

INFORMATION COORDINATOR
Graduate of Mass Comm., English, Creative Writing/related course; w/ at least 2 yrs. exp. in public/media relations; proficient in news & feature writing; must have at least 8 hrs training on desktop publications & media relations

INVESTMENTS PORTFOLIO ANALYST
Graduate of Finance, Economics or related course; experienced in investment risks analysis & reports/communications preparation

RISK MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST
Bachelor's degree pref. business-related; w/ at least 1 yr. exp. in credit policy/risk management research & development; familiar w/ financial statements & reports presentation; w/ at least 4 hrs. relevant training

*All vacancies require CSC Professional Eligibility

Send résumé to:
HRD - Small Business Corporation
17F 139 Corporate Center 139 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.
Email: hrd@sbgfc.org.ph / Tel. 751-1888

The **Cancer Institute of University of the Philippines Manila Philippine General Hospital's (UPM-PGH)** Cervical Cancer Prevention Network Program **(CECAP)** together with **JHPIEGO** (an Affiliate of Johns Hopkins University) is in need of a

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- He/She will develop a communication strategy and materials for educational and awareness raising purposes of the CECAP program in the Philippines from Nov. 2006 - March 2007.

Send your letter of application and curriculum vitaé at:

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addressed to CECAP Program Director.

CECAP is also announcing its **logo making contest.** For details of the criteria and prize, you may contact Grace Mateo, CECAP Program Coordinator at 524-8584/526-6953 or email at cecap_phil@yahoo.com

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Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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Please bring Comprehensive Resume, Transcript of Records, Certification from previous employer (if necessary), NBI Clearance, Health Certificate, (4) colored 1X1 ID pictures.

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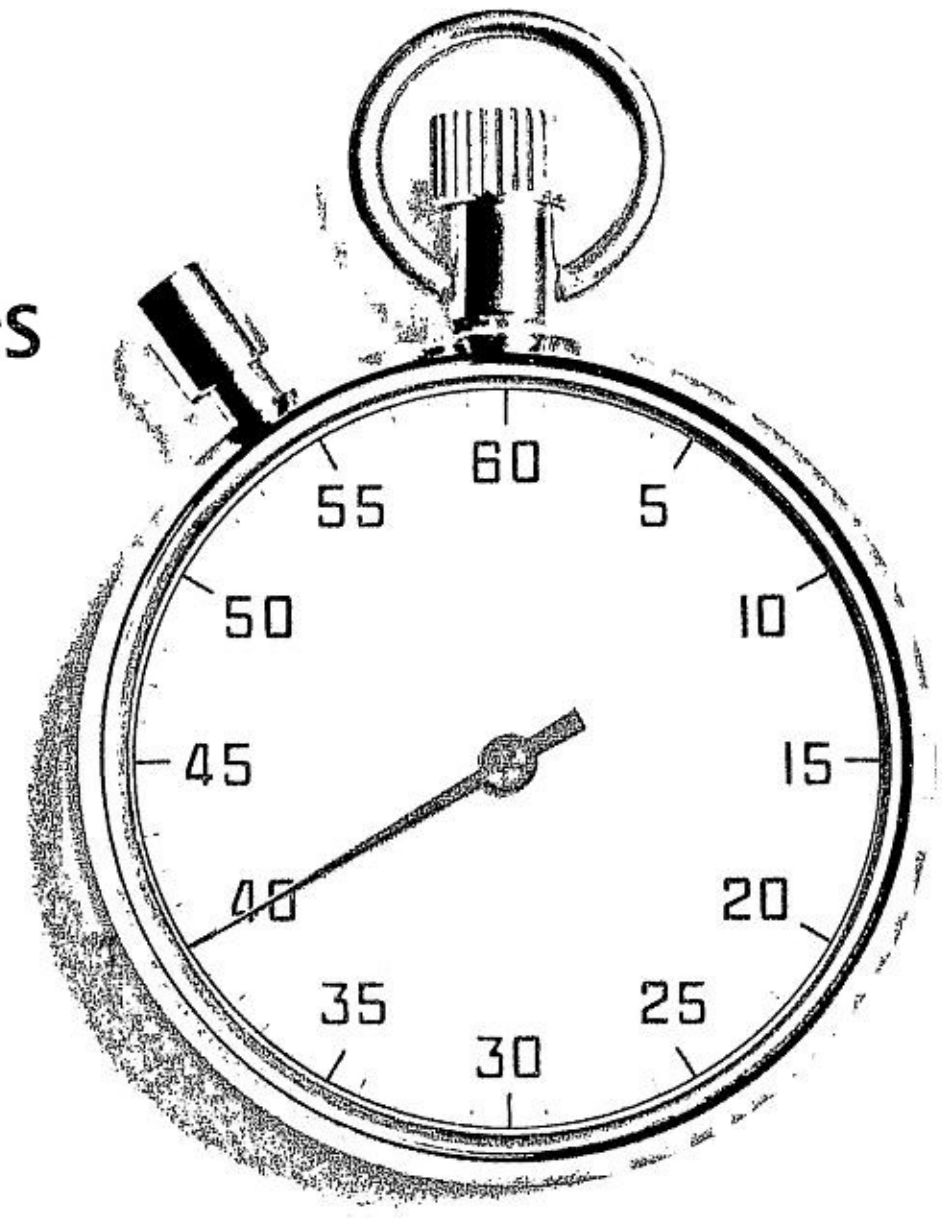

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- With at least 8 years experience in marketing for real estate and development
- Proficient in oral and written communications; computer literate.

School Director/ Management Trainees
- Qualified applicants for SD/MT will be responsible in the administration of the School branch, above-industry pay/incentive/ allowance.
- Graduate of any business related courses preferably with MA/MBA degree/ units.
- Must have at least 3-5 years of Managerial/ Marketing with sales experience.
- With excellent communication skills
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

Public Relations Manager/Writer
- Graduate of AB Mass Communication/ Journalism or any related course
- Has proven track record on both media/ government relations

Sales/Account Executive's
- Graduate of any business related courses preferably marketing
- Has at least 1-year sales and marketing experience preferably with background in the printing industry

Computer Engineer/ Computer Laboratory Technician
- Graduate BS Computer Science, Computer Engineering or any related courses
- With at least 6 months related experience

HR SUPERVISOR
(Metro Manila, Bacolod, Iloilo, Zamboanga)
- Graduate of Human Resources Management, AB/BS Psychology or any related field
- Has at least 5 years of solid HR experience
- Preferably not more than 30 years old and has background in the education industry
- Has good command of the English language in both oral and written form

Accounting/Loans Assistant/ Internal Auditor/Audit Supervisors
- Accounting Graduate
- 6-months work experience in related field.
- Supervisory experience in an Audit Department is a must for Audit Supervisors.
- Preferably Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

Finance Officer
- BS Accountancy/ BS Commerce graduate Has at least 2 years experience in general accounting
- Computer literate, proficient in oral and written communications, can work under pressure.

Registrar Supervisor's
- Graduate of Information Systems or related courses; not more than 30 years old
- Must have expert knowledge and direct experience with information system used in higher education and computer applications in registrar services and records management
- Strong interpersonal, oral and written communication skills
- Has the ability to interact productively with diverse constituencies; and a knowledge of and commitment to process review and improvement.

Librarians
(NCR, Dumaguete, Tacloban, Iloilo)
- Licensed Library Science graduate.
- 1 to 2 years relevant experience.
- Computer literate

Registered Nurse's
(Nationwide deployment)

DEANS

Responsible for rendering quality education to the students for the attainment of the AMACC mission; conducting evaluation procedures to assess teaching performance of faculty members and to ensure that quality education is being rendered without compromise.

School of Nursing
- Registered Nurse
- Earned Master Degree in Nursing, major in Administration and Supervision.
- Minimum of 5 years experience in teaching and 2 years Administrative or work Managerial experience

College of Arts and Sciences
- PhD from reputable School
- With Noteworthy publications.
- Minimum of 5 years experience in teaching and 2 years Administrative or work Managerial experience

College of Business Administration
- DBA or MBA preferably CPA.
- With noteworthy publications.
- Minimum of 5 years experience in teaching and 2 years Administrative or work Managerial experience

College of Computer Studies
- At least MS from reputable School
- With noteworthy publications.
- Minimum of 5 years experience in teaching and 2 years Administrative or work Managerial experience

College of Engineering
- At least MS from reputable school
- With Noteworthy publications.
- Minimum of 5 years experience in teaching and 2 years Administrative or work Managerial experience

English Language Officer/ Part-time Chinese-English Teacher
- At least 1 year experience as an English Teacher.
- Chinese language proficient oral and written.
- Preferably with MA Degree, TESL or relevant language education.
- 25 years old and above.

FACULTY

College of Arts and Sciences
College of Business Administration
College of Computer Science
College of Computer Engineering
- Graduate of BS Psychology/Computer Engineering, Information Technology, Information Management, ECE, Accountancy, English, Marine Transportation, or Social Sciences, Tourism, Hotel and Restaurant Management.
- With good Scholastic records.
- Teaching/mentoring experience is an advantage.
- Masteral Degree is preferred.

Please e-mail your application letter together with your updated resumé to:
msfabay@amaes.edu.ph
Please indicate the position title applied for as subject of your e-mail.

or through snail mail addressed to:

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FIVE (5) ASSOCIATES WITH
- Above-average academic records (preferably but not necessarily among the top ten percentile of their graduating classes and/or were members of the editorial boards of the law schools' journals);
- Impeccable moral character, pleasant interpersonal skills and professional work ethics;
- At least 2 to 3 years of substantial, high-end legal practice;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Knowledge of basic software applications such as MS Word, MS PowerPoint and MS Excel;
- Solid organizational skills and demonstrated capacity to efficiently manage multiple tasks and deadlines; and
- Strong business and/or litigation background (admission to the Board of Accountancy a plus but not required).

FIVE (5) LEGAL ASSISTANTS/ PARALEGALS WITH
- Above-average academic records in law school or equivalent degree in legal management;
- Impeccable moral character, pleasant interpersonal skills and professional work ethics;
- Strong organizational skills and a demonstrated capacity to successfully manage multiple projects and deadlines;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Knowledge of basic software applications such as MS Word, MS PowerPoint, MS Excel and other web-based document management; and
- Excellent interpersonal skills and a demonstrated ability to work within a team and independently;

NOTA BENE: For associate, legal assistant/paralegal positions, candidates with pending applications with other major Philippine law firms, or whose applications have been declined, need not apply.

FIELD RESEARCH ASSOCIATES WITH
- Bachelor's degree (preferably but not necessarily) in Criminology, Security Administration or other allied degrees and between the ages 23 to 30;
- Demonstrated wide experience in field research and writing, investigation, security analysis and administrative work;
- Good moral character, pleasant interpersonal skills and professional work ethics;
- Proficiency in oral and written communication;
- Computer-literacy and proficiency in software applications such as MS Excel and MS Word;
- Good organizational skills and proven capacity to work within a team and independently;
- Demonstrable organizational skills and capability to competently manage multiple tasks and deadlines;
- Willingness to work long hours and weekends, if necessary;
- Ability to work in a multi-tasking and multi-cultural environment.

ONE (1) OFFICE RECEPTIONIST WITH
- Associate or bachelor's degree or its equivalent in work experience
- Pleasant personality and preferably from 25 to 35 years of age;
- At least 2-year experience in secretarial and administrative work (in a legal environment a plus);
- Proficient oral and written communication skills;
- Strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated capacity to undertake multi-tasking;
- Proficiency in software applications such as MS Excel, MS Word and MS Power Point a plus.

Competitive and generous compensation packages and benefits will be offered to successful candidates who are willing to commit at least 3 years of employment with the Law Firm. Interested candidates should send cover letters, resumes and copies of their school transcripts to the address below **not later than 30 October 2006**:

P.O. BOX 1303
Makati Central Post Office
1253 Makati City, Philippines

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To find out how you can take part in the next GXP, visit **www.vsobahaginan.org.ph.**
Deadline for application is on **November 24, 2006.**

Global Xchange Programme is a partnership of

BRITISH COUNCIL · BAHAGINAN · VSO

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ACCOUNTANT/ BOOKEEPER
- M/F
- Accounting Graduate
- 25-30 y/o
- w/ at least 1 yr work experience in General Accounting

Interested applicants pls call 8936474 / 8924275
Email: hermes_pharma@yahoo.com

IMMEDIATE HIRING
Male or Female
Accounting Graduate
With at least 2 years experience
Pls. contact:
Adrian
0917-6248668

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
- M/F, 23-30 yr old
- College Graduate
- At least 1-2yrs experience in sales in related industry (printing)
- Aggressive,goal oriented
- W/ good communication skills
- Customer service oriented

Mundial Marketing Inc
Large format graphic print production, Short-run digital printing, display solutions
Email your resume to:
mmi@pldtdsl.net

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

The incumbent will work in the General Services Office and will oversee the provision of maintenance services to approximately 28 houses and apartments, the warehouse, and on an adhoc basis to the office building. He/she oversees the work of 9 contract staff on a daily basis, supplemented by up to an additional 10 persons during the busy season. He/she also monitors and directs the work of various firms contracted to provide major specialized services of installations.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Completion of secondary school is required. Completion of at least 2 years of vocational training or 2 years university training in engineering related field. Completion of university degree is desirable.
- Four years of progressively responsible experience in maintenance service. Supervisory experience in maintenance/construction and inspection. Must have experience in planning and cost estimating for major maintenance and construction repair.
- Must have a sound working knowledge of building construction and grounds maintenance and safety. Must have good knowledge of maintenance, trade operating practice, and planning and estimating experience procedures.
- Expertise in supervisory and teamwork skills is essential.

COMPENSATION: Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN NOVEMBER 3, 2006

SEND LETTER OF APPLICATION
WITH COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ TO:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

CPI OUTSOURCING
Best Practices. Accuracy. Peace of Mind

CPI Outsourcing is a leader and pioneer in attendance and payroll outsourcing. We are a reliable partner to many top companies that have chosen outsourcing as a complement to their existing business strategies.

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Send your resumé in MS Word format with picture to

Human Resources Department
CPI Outsourcing
Unit 11 Starmall Apartelle
Shaw Blvd. corner EDSA,
Mandaluyong City

or through our e-mail address

recruitment@cpi-outsourcing.com
payroll@skyinet.net

CCP's Resident Theater Company urgently needs a:

PRODUCTION MANAGER

College grad w/ experience in professional theater productions; can work irregular schedules; responsible, orderly and systematic; can meet work deadlines; good in written & oral communication; knowledge in Photoshop an advantage.

Send/email your resumé to:
Tanghalang Pilipino
2/F PDC Bldg., CCP Complex,
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel: 832-1125 loc 1620/1621
ccptanghalan@yahoo.com

NCO GROUP SM

JOB FAIR

IMMEDIATE HIRING!

October 23 - 27, 2006 9AM to 5PM

4th Floor Eugenio Lopez Jr. Communications Center,
ABS-CBN Compound, Mother Ignacia Ave., Q. C.
Tel. Nos. 981-7564; 981-7586; 981-7557 to 60
manilarecruitment@ncogroup.com

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FACILITIES MANAGER
COMPANY NURSES
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RECRUITERS

Up to Php 18,000 basic rate*
20% Night Differential*
Regularization Incentive*
Meal Benefit
Paid Training
Referral Bonus
Loyalty Program
Recreational Facilities
Performance-based bonus
Medical and Life Insurance
Signing Bonus for Telemarketers*

* for agents position

ProView

GLOBAL ADMINISTRATION, INC.

ProView Global is experiencing rapid growth and is hiring for its newest division, which will be focused on delivering high quality interior design services for US-based corporations.

ProView Global's other divisions include a Human Resource BPO (business process outsourcing) organization, which is focused on delivering process-optimized employee benefits administration transaction services to third-party administrators, insurance companies, and employers using best outsourcing practices.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of ProView Global US, with operations in California, it is professionally managed by seasoned business process outsourcing leaders with over 50 years of collective experience in delivering results for Fortune 100 companies as well as medium sized business enterprises.

RECRUITMENT FAIR

18F Puerto Galera Room, Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Friday, October 27, 2006
9am - 5pm

SPECIFICATION AUDITOR

Responsible for verifying accuracy in quantities, integrity of design, product application and comparing drawings (plans) to product specifications • Performs audits on designs to specifications, and notes discrepancies • Informs designers of important product information and maintains these records • Meets with designers to review project notes and information.

REQUIREMENTS:
Certificate or Bachelor's degree • 1-4 yrs experience in a similar function • Strong English communication and interpersonal skills • Methodical and very detail-oriented • High tolerance for routine work • Willing to work in Pasig City or Makati City.

DESIGNER

Handles design projects that involve interfacing with client's sales staff or project managers • Designs system furniture layouts from initial programming to final installation documents • Specifies furniture required per final furniture layout • Ensures that field measurements and inventory of existing furniture are accurate • May perform specification double checks for other designers • Performs all work in adherence to established departmental procedures and graphic standards • Serves as mentor to other designers as determined by level of experience • Selects furniture finishes as required • May compose and manage design contracts

REQUIREMENTS:
Bachelor's Degree • Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Architecture / Interior Design or equivalent • ACAD 14/2000 • Strong English Communication Skills, Interpersonal Skills and Organizational Skills • Willing to work in Pasig City or Makati City

We offer industry-leading compensation and benefits as well as world-class training for our employees. Hiring Managers will be on hand to conduct interviews.

Bring the following with you: College Diploma; 2 x 2 recent photo; 2 sets of resumes

**1603 East Tower,
Philippine Stock Exchange Centre,
Exchange Road, Pasig City,
Philippines 1605**

www.proviewglobal.com

**Email
hr@proviewglobal.com**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
PROFESSIONAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT N°: FAOPH 06-001

Issued on: 22 October 2006
Deadline For Application: 07 November 2006

POSITION TITLE: Assistant FAOR (Administration) — **GRADE LEVEL:** NOA
DUTY STATION: FAO Representation-Philippines
ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: FAO PH — **DURATION:** Fixed-term: 1 year with possible extension

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the direct supervision of the FAO Representative heading a Country Office, assume responsibility for the planning and implementation of the administrative and financial activities of the Office including co-ordination and supervision of administrative and support staff as indicated by the requirements and structure of the Office. Specifically, to:

- Provide support and advice to the FAO Representative in the area of office management and administration;
- Analyse and maintain an overview of the work of the office to ensure that timely administrative support is provided in general and specialized areas;
- Prepare detailed schedules, perform administrative and personnel functions, including recruitment, orientation, training and supervision of support personnel;
- Brief FAO staff, project staff and consultants in administrative and personnel matters; liaise with offices of host Government, Regional Offices, Sub-regional offices and technical and administrative divisions at Headquarters in this respect;
- Maintain an Imprest Account and prepare monthly statements of expenditure;
- Contribute to the preparation of budgetary proposals and financial estimates; establish and maintain effective financial controls; act as Certifying Officer ensuring appropriateness of expenditure within approved budget;
- Establish detailed requirements for equipment and arranges its procurement, inventory and control;
- Participate in the development and adoption of standard computerized applications in accounting, information and other IT systems and initiatives e.g., virtual library, e-registry etc. by the Representation.
- Monitor the application of the security guidelines (including training and procurement of security equipment) to ensure full compliance of the office with the Minimum Operational Security Standards (MOSS).
- Provide administrative and operational backstopping to projects;
- Perform other related duties as required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Candidates should meet the following:

- University degree in a field related to business or public administration.
- Ten years of professional experience in the field of management, administration, accounting, budgetary or personnel management, including supervisory experience and exposure to personnel management
- Working knowledge of the language used for communication with the country (English). Knowledge of the official language used by the Government and of the most widely used local language

SELECTION CRITERIA

Candidates will be assessed against the following:

- Relevance of length and breadth of experience in the field of office management and administration including supervisory experience
- Relevance of academic qualifications in a field related to business or public administration and good computer literacy in administrative systems and standard office packages
- Previous UN experience and knowledge of UN rules and procedures
- Analytical and supervisory ability and ability to apply rules and regulations in the subject field
- Ability to communicate clearly and concisely
- Demonstrated client and result-oriented approach
- Ability to work in a team and to mobilize team effort

Please note that all candidates should possess computer/word processing skills and should be capable of working with people of different national and cultural backgrounds.

Note:
- Your application should be typewritten (where possible), signed and dated.
- Clearly indicate the title of the post and the Vacancy Announcement Number for which you are applying.
- With regard to computer skill, indicate your word processing skills and knowledge of database/ spreadsheet (e.g. Excel, Access), or any other office automation software known and used.
- Also, if applicable, specify your work experience in data entry/retrieval and programming skills. Indicate knowledge of programming languages and operating systems.

Send your application (letter and CV) to:

FAO/UNITED NATIONS
29TH FLOOR YUCHENGCO TOWER
RCBC PLAZA , AYALA AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
Fax No: 9010 360/361
E-mail: FAO-PHL@FAO.ORG

- ***Only shortlisted applicants will be acknowledged.***

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

HINGE INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS, a dynamic company engaged in the publication of the most influential niche magazines today, is in immediate need of the following:

EVENTS MANAGER

The Events Manager will conceptualize, plan and carry out events for our publications, in coordination with the Editorial and Sales Departments, and will be in charge of the company Events Team. He/She will also be directly responsible in providing creative and effective marketing strategies to ensure continuous market awareness for the company and its titles.

- Come up with unique ideas/happenings/ creative implementations in order to ensure quality of the event
- Come up with a detailed, complete, and cost-effective budget appropriation for an event
- Acquire ex-deal arrangements and minimize expenditures on numerous broadcast media for event promotion
- Produce approved event collaterals on schedule
- Manage effectively the Events Team

REQUIREMENTS:
- Graduate of Marketing, or any business related course
- At least 3 years Management experience
- Articulate
- Computer literate
- Strong leadership ability and business sense to train and manage an events team
- Creative in formulating event concepts and strategies
- Pleasing personality

SALES MANAGER

The Sales Manager will be directly responsible in monitoring and developing sales and business strategies. He/she is also responsible in managing account executives and in meeting sales team objectives.

- Develop effective advertising and events packages
- Present events concepts to key accounts
- Maintain good business relations with key accounts
- Monitor performance of Account Executives(AEs)
- Conduct coaching and facilitate training sessions with AEs
- Prospect new local and international business opportunities
- Ensure Sales Quota of the team is achieved

REQUIREMENTS:
- Graduate of Marketing, Advertising or any business course
- At least 3 years Management/Sales experience
- Articulate and possess exceptional presentation skills
- Computer literate
- Strong leadership and business sense to train and manage a sales team
- Creative in formulating sales strategies
- Aggressive in achieving sales targets
- Pleasing personality

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

The Account Executive will have the primary responsibility of acquiring advertising placements for assigned Hinge Inquirer Publication magazines.

- Generate new revenue through sales of advertising placements and event sponsorships according to set company quotas
- Prospecting
- Conduct of sales presentations
- Development of proposals
- Negotiation/Closing
- Account Management
- Participation in marketing initiatives/events

REQUIREMENTS:
- Male/Female, 21 to 30 yrs old
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Business Studies/Advertising/ Management, Sales & Marketing, or equivalent
- Highly motivated, a team player, with good communication, negotiation and presentation skills, thrives under pressure and can work with minimal supervision
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City and do field work
- Preferably has at least 1 year experience in Corporate Sales/Advertising/Publication

PRINT PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

The Print Production Assistant will be directly involved in the scheduling, organization, supervision, and monitoring of the publication of the company's titles and projects, and assist the Print Production Supervisor in the performance of his/her duties and responsibilities.

REQUIREMENTS:
- single, 19-31 years old, college graduate
- preferably with some pre-press experience and knowledge of printing processes
- computer literate, with knowledge of Adobe CS and other related applications
- punctual, organized, and methodical
- knowledgeable in color and design theory

GRAPHIC ARTIST

The Graphic Artist will have the responsibilty of conceptualizing designs for his/her respective magazine title/department. He/she will be working closely with the Editorial Staff and Creative Director.

REQUIREMENTS:
- between 19-30 years old
- a graduate of a 4-year Communications, Design or Fine Arts course (or related degree)
- equipped with exceptional designing skills
- organized, resourceful, and creative
- able to work under minimal supervision, and individually or with a group
- willing to work overtime
- Preferably has at least 1 year experience in Magazine/Collaterals Design

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

The Editorial Assistant will be responsible in helping the Editor-in-Chief and the editorial team in accomplishing all requirements of the assigned magazine. He/she will be working closely with the Editorial Supervisor and Editorial Manager for apt tasks.

REQUIREMENTS:
- between 19-23 years old
- a graduate of a 4-year Communications course (or related degree), from UP, UST, Ateneo, La Salle or UA&P
- equipped with exceptional communication skills in both written and spoken English and Filipino
- organized, resourceful, and creative
- able to work under minimal supervision, and individually or with a group
- willing to work overtime

hinge inquirer PUBLICATIONS

Interested applicants may email their resumes to hrd@hip.ph or bring their resumé, two (2) 2x2 photos, Transcript of Records, and any valid I.D. to our office at Unit 338, Milo Long Building, Amorsolo corner Javier Streets, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm • Tel. Nos.: 759-2284, 759-2024, 840-0196, 813-6848

The Asia Foundation

PROGRAM OFFICER – LEGAL & HUMAN RIGHTS UNIT

The Asia Foundation is an international based non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous, just, and open Asia Pacific region. Programs in the Philippines have been strengthening good governance and citizen participation since 1954. The Asia Foundation's current programs in the Philippines promote government accountability and improve the public's access to the justice system.

The Asia Foundation is seeking to recruit a lawyer as Program Officer for its Legal Accountability & Dispute Resolution (LADR) Project. The position is based in Manila, Philippines. He or she will report directly to the Senior Program Officer. Compensation will be based on previous salary and experience.

Qualifications: Bar passer with minimum of 2 years work experience

Closing Date: October 25, 2006

Interested applicants are invited to send an email to **tafphil@asiafound.org** requesting a summary of the job responsibilities for the position.

The Asia Foundation
P.O. Box 7072
Domestic Airport Post Office
Pasay City
Metro Manila, Philippines
Attn: Human Resource Officer
E-mail: **tafphil@asiafound.org**
Fax: 853-0474
Phone inquiries discouraged

URGENTLY NEEDED!!!

AN ESTABLISHED CONSULTANCY FIRM REQUIRES:

1) **ARCHITECTS**
2) **ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTSMEN**
3) **CIVIL & STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS**
4) **STRUCTURAL DRAFTSMEN**

WITH AUTOCAD, MICROSTATION EXPERIENCE

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETE RESUMÉ, WITH RECENT PHOTO, CONTACT NUMBERS, EMAIL ADDRESS AND EXPECTED SALARY TO THIS EMAIL ADDRESS:

ryslopez@yahoo.com
gspadlan@yahoo.com

All chosen applicants will be called for interview

Reach more qualified applicants. Advertise in JobMarket Compact
JOB COMPACT JOB
Inquirer Compact available in all key cities in Luzon.
Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

COME BE PART OF OUR TEAM

HIRING NOW FOR IMMEDIATE TRAINING

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES
Must possess at least a Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering or other computer related course; Must have at least 6 months computer hardware experience; Call Center experience is an advantage

INBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS
At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above; Able to effectively communicate in English; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

OUTBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS
At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above; Able to effectively communicate in English; Must have sales experience; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

TEAM LEADER
Must be extroverted and has an energetic personality; Ability to multitask; Time management skills; Basic Microsoft Office skills; Excellent communication skills; Performance Driven; Respond to and manage high stress situations; Tech Support/Customer Service Experience (3 years or more); Strong Coaching Technique; Committed and Consistent

ACCOUNT MANAGER (Technical Account)
Two (2)years working experience in a Call Center Operations Environment or Project Management Team; Three (3) years technical background; Good Microsoft Office Skills; Experience in group dynamics and organization; Excellent Written & Verbal Communication Skills; Ability to multi-task - can implement simultaneous projects in a timely manner and successfully meet program objectives; Strong process flow management skills; Strong negotiation and problem solving skills, attention to detail; Bachelors or advanced degree

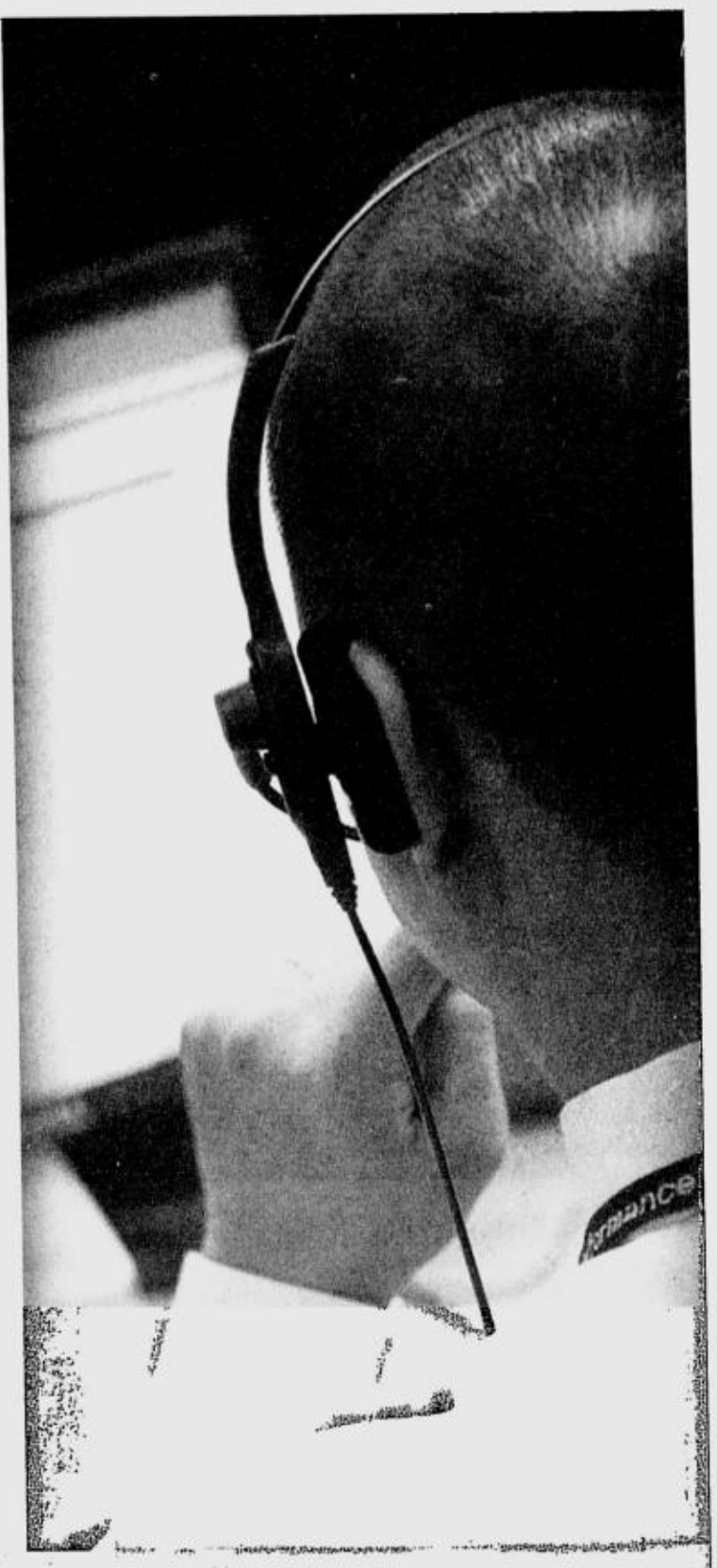
DATABASE PROGRAMMER
One-year related work experience; Graduates of B.S./M.S. Comp Sci; Knowledgeable: My SQL, Linux, Apache languages, Visual Basic, Crystal Reports, Scripting languages, Microsoft SQL Server; Experienced in programming user interfaces and database processing under Web and Client Server environment

ACCOUNTING STAFF
Graduate of four-year accounting course and other related field; New graduates are welcome to apply; Computer literate specifically good in MS Excel; Willing to extend long hours during payroll deadlines; Willing to report to work on holidays; Willing to work on graveyard shift; Flexible and fast learner

All positions require excellent verbal & written communication skills and knowledge in Microsoft Office & Internet Explorer
Interested applicants may bring the following requirements:
Updated resume / 2 pcs of 2x2 picture / 6 pcs of 1x1 picture / Valid SSS Number / Valid Tax Identification Number (TIN) / NBI Clearance required before employment

RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
Level 3 MS303, EDSA Central Pavilion, Mandaluyong City
Monday-Friday 8AM-8PM / Saturday 8AM-3PM
Hotline: (02) 637-7111 / local 301 & 302
manilarecruitment@teleperformance.com
www.teleperformance.ph

RECRUITMENT CENTER
Luxur Hotel (former Bacolod Convention Plaza & Hotel)
Magsaysay Ave, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
Hotline: (034) 433-8167
bacolodrecruitment@teleperformance.com



The global expert in contact center management

Teleperformance
GLOBAL CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

A LARGE MANUFACTURING ORGANIZATION IN ASIA

Is looking for the following Top-Notch Management Team Members:

SAFETY ENGINEERS

- ❑ Male, 25-30 years old; preferably Mechanical or Chemical Engineering graduate.
- ❑ With exposure to environmental, health, safety or pollution control.
- ❑ With good potentials to grow with the Team.

ACCOUNTANTS/CPA/SENIOR AUDITORS

- ❑ Male/Female, must be CPA.
- ❑ Must have exposure on any one of the following areas: internal audit, cost or general accounting, financial analysis or planning, occupying a senior position (supervisor, officer or manager level).
- ❑ With excellent communication and analytical skills.

PRODUCT MANAGERS

- ❑ Male/Female, 25-35 years old; graduate of any business course.
- ❑ Must have very good grounded experience on product and brand management preferably from a manufacturing environment.
- ❑ With very good interpersonal, communication and leadership skills.

SUPPLY CHAIN/LOGISTICS MANAGERS

- ❑ Male/Female, 28-40 years old; graduate of any business or related course.
- ❑ With at least 3-5 years experience handling supply chain management, logistics, planning and distribution, sourcing and project management.
- ❑ With very good planning, communication/presentation skills and impeccable leadership.

WE OFFER TOP-OF-THE-LINE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS PACKAGE PLUS VERY ATTRACTIVE PERKS AND PRIVILEGES.

PLEASE E-MAIL ALL APPLICATIONS TO:
callcenter.qc@gmail.com

- ○ **All Applications will be treated with utmost confidentiality.**
- ○ **We will only reply to short-listed candidates. PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY.**

Actmedia Philippines, Inc.
Is in need of
ACCOUNT MANAGERS
24 to 30 years old • At least 2 years experience in Account, Sales or Marketing Management • Has worked in a Media or Marketing Company
Please send or e-mail your resumé with photo to:
Actmedia Philippines: Suite 1101 Centerpoint Bldg. J. Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
E-mail: girlie.medel@actmediaphil.com

ATTENTION: Residents of Metro Manila
TOA CORPORATION
Is in urgent need of the following Manpower:
• CIVIL ENGINEER
- Male, 25-35 years old
- Computer Skill (MS Word, MS Office, Excel & Auto CAD)
- Fluent in English (Oral & Written)
- Must be Licensed Civil Engineer

For Inquiry, Please look for: Mr. Maeda/Ms. Maribel at 3F-A, First Life Center, 174 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City w/ Tel. No.: (02) 892-2809/817-1870/816-3560

B&M GLOBAL SERVICES MANILA

B&M Global Services Manila provides a wide range of services to a high-profile international law firm which has more than 70 offices in 38 countries and has an award-winning Intellectual Property (IP) Law practice. We are setting up a dedicated Global Intellectual Property Support Centre (GIPSC), which will provide the full range of IP support services intrinsic to the registration and maintenance of IP rights within a virtual document environment.

If you see yourself working as part of a dynamic global organization driven by passion for excellence, then we would like to hear from you.

Data Operations Manager
Reporting to the Director, GIPSC the Operations Manager will be responsible for the effective management of the day-to-day operations of GIPSC, with the goal of total quality output and customer satisfaction. The Manager will likewise be accountable for the successful planning and delivery of services as well as effective training of the staff on the use of proprietary IP systems and tools.

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree preferably in any of the following areas: Computer Science, Legal Management, or Business Administration
- At least five years experience in operations management
- Proficient in MS Office Applications and must be comfortable working with computers
- Deep and wide-ranging knowledge of trade mark administration and related procedures is a requirement
- Excellent organizational skills and communication skills
- Proficient in MS Office Applications particularly Word and Excel
- Proven practical experience in supervising a team of people
- Must be a team player with excellent interpersonal skills and able to deal with people at all levels
- Must be flexible and willing to work in rotating shifts including graveyard schedule.
- Working in a virtual filing environment with knowledge in trademark administration and general administrative functions is an advantage

Shift Supervisor
The Shift Supervisor ensures the timely and proper completion of work requests of the shift. The Supervisor will oversee the operation of all IP-related applications and undertakings required to ensure the smooth and efficient delivery of service to the Firm's clients.

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree with good academic credential

Quality Control Officer
The Quality Control Officer will ensure the proper design, documentation, implementation and observance of all business processes in relation to the provision of an IP support service.

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree with good academic credential
- Proficient in MS Office Applications
- Excellent problem solving and analytical skills, organization and attention to detail.
- Must be a team player with excellent interpersonal skills and able to deal with people at all levels
- Practical experience in implementing process improvements a plus

Administrative Assistant
The Administrative Assistant will be reporting to and provide secretarial support to the GIPSC Director.

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree and with at least two years relevant secretarial experience
- Proficient in MS Office and has good typing skills
- Works well under pressure and can work in a virtual team environment

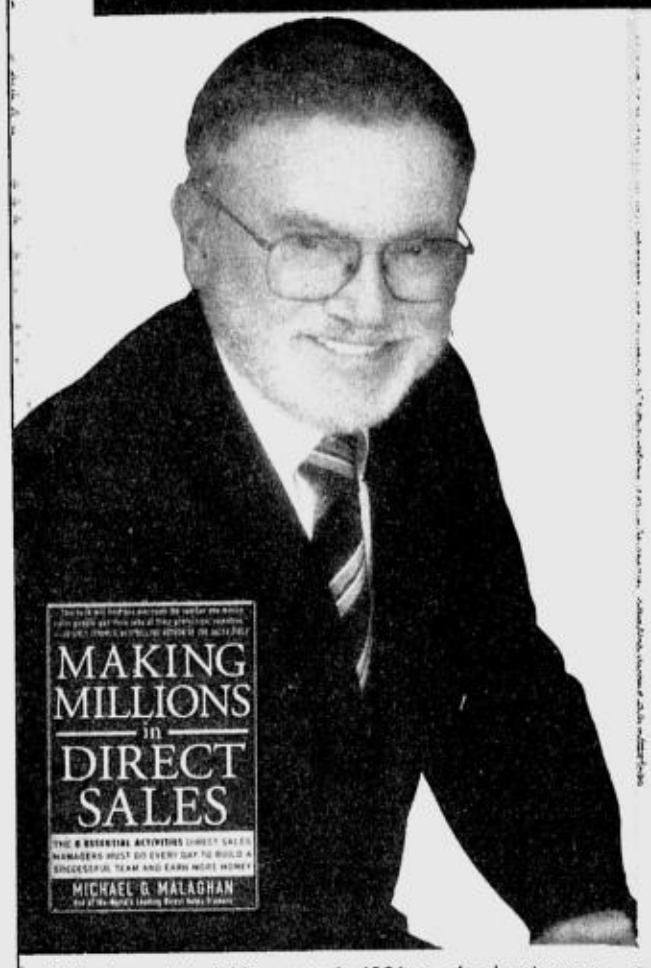
Data Processor
The Data Processor will be responsible for entering and maintaining IP data, scanning and indexing of IP documents, monitoring key dates on IP renewals and subsequently notifying the appropriate parties.

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree and with good academic credentials
- Proficient in MS Office Applications particularly Word and Excel
- Works well under pressure and can handle multiple tasks while maintaining great accuracy, consistency and quality in data entry and administrative work.
- Knowledge in trademark administration and general administrative function is an edge
- Must be flexible and willing to work in rotating shifts including graveyard schedule.

Qualified applicants may submit their resume with cover letter and other credentials to bmgsm.hr@bakernet.com by October 30, 2006. Kindly indicate the position you are applying for in your email header.

B&M Global Services Manila, Inc., is a subsidiary of Baker & McKenzie International B.V., a support services provider to Baker & McKenzie International, a Swiss Verein of member law firms around the world. Neither B&M Global Services Manila, Inc., nor Baker & McKenzie International B.V., is engaged in the practice of law.

Lessons from the CEO Who Created Millionaires



MICHAEL G. MALAGHAN

A legend in the field of sales
Author of "Making Millions in Direct Sales"

TIPPING POINTS FOR CAREER SUCCESS

Session 1: Nov. 15, 2006
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Mike Malaghan managed his first team of sales reps as a student field manager at age 20. He retired as president of 2,000 fulltime sales representatives spread over five sales groups in three countries as well as being in charge of product development and after-sales service programs.

Mike will review a minimum of 10 tipping points in his personal march to success. Not every inflection point was a success. Sometimes, failure taught painful lessons. Some of the highlights include: • How he transitioned from personal selling to management at age 20 • How he established credibility as a manager of a new sales group • How he impressed senior management • How he made two huge mistakes that held his career back • How he made a decision to quit at a wrong time.

Mike will also review career tipping points of successful and unsuccessful managers reporting to him. This includes: • What he looked for when promoting managers to the next level • How to pass the "unfair test" - situations managers faced that were not their fault, but had to be dealt with.

This interactive session will ask members of the audience to share their personal career tipping point experiences. Be prepared to give one story in case you "win" the lottery and are called!

JOIN and PARTICIPATE in 3 INTERACTIVE seminars conducted in the same transparent manner he used to fast-track leadership development in his company which resulted in an increase in sales five-fold in a decade.

Session 2: Nov. 16, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
10 Ways to Enhance Organizational Competitiveness
Session 3: Nov. 17, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
20 Strategies for Effective Leadership

VENUE: Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, H. V. de la Costa St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

Malaghan started his career in 1961 as a book salesman. He finished his career 41 years later as president of International Horizons (licensee of The Walt Disney Company) leading five direct-sales organizations spread across Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan. In 1992, he started an incredible streak of increased sales every year for 11 consecutive years. After being promoted to president, he raised sales in Japan from $50M to $110M in three years as part of the quarter billion dollar empire he retired from only a few years ago.In the process, he created millionaires from the ranks of his sales managers.

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World Vision International

World Vision

World Vision International, a Christian humanitarian organization involved in relief and development working for the well being of poor and vulnerable people, is looking for candidates for the following position.

Requirements necessary for both positions:
- Strong Christian commitment as evidenced by life & character
- Flexibility and ability to work independently without significant supervision.
- Fluency in English and good communication (verbal & written)
- Excellent interpersonal skills as well as sensitivity and understanding of cross-cultural relationships.

DOCUMENTOR

Key Responsibilities:
- Write, edit and package session guides, powerpoints, training kits and other resource materials.
- Follow the existing template and observe the basic principles and "house style" in writing the training handbook & resource materials.
- Ensure the quality of training/resource materials in terms of consistency, validity and relevance of data to corresponding subject matter.

Key Requirements:
- Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication, Education or related field.
- Creative, with prior knowledge and experience in designing/writing training kits for adult learning process.
- Research through internal and external sources on training reference is required.
- Knowledge in MS Office applications, Publisher, Photoshop preferred.

IT HELPDESK SUPPORT

Key Responsibilities:
- Support the implementation preparation by performing validation of data in spreadsheets, performing data conversion test and simulating installation procedures.
- Document technical procedures and problem resolution.
- Execute testing of patch releases from program system and confirm resolution against issues received.
- Maintain and document application patch releases issued to various offices.

Key Requirements:

The following knowledge, skills and abilities may be acquired through a combination of formal schooling, self-education, prior work experience, or on-the-job training.
- A degree in Computer Science or a related computer discipline, or equivalent work experience is required.
- Preferably with experience in supporting database applications such as dBase, MS Access & Lotus Notes.
- Knowledge of information technology, management information systems and processing practices.
- Ability to make sound decisions in a manner consistent with the essential job functions.

Please send your CV by e-mail at **cim_staff@wvi.org** on or before October 28, 2006
Only shortlisted candidates will be notified. Phone inquiries will not be entertained.

World Vision International

World Vision

World Vision International, a Christian humanitarian organization involved in relief and development working for the well being of poor and vulnerable people, is looking for a candidate for this position.

DIGITAL IMAGING COORDINATOR

Key Responsibilities:
- Manage projects related to Digital Imaging and Websites as it relates to Child Sponsorship
- Testing, supporting, troubleshooting & deployment of World Vision Software for digital imaging.
- Serve as coach for regional and global initiatives.
- Research technologies with special focus on Digital Cameras, Web Technology & usage of PDAs.
- Develop and maintain support materials for Partnership projects.
- Provide support/input in the software architecture/design for digital imaging.

Key Requirements:
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Information Systems, Computer Science and other related course or equivalent plus 3-5 years of experience.
- Ability to express technical concepts to lay users (verbally and/or in writing using the English language) effectively in one-on-one as well as large group settings and with good facilitation skills.
- Experience in Systems Quality Assurance.
- Experience in project management, control & monitoring, knowledge of industry accepted documentation and application standards.
- Knowledge in SLDC methodology.
- Ability and willing to travel internationally up to 30% of the year.
- Strong Christian commitment as evidenced by life & character
- Analytical, problem-solving and organizational skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills as well as sensitivity and understanding of cross-cultural relationships

Please send your CV by e-mail at **cim_staff@wvi.org** on or before October 28, 2006
Only shortlisted candidates will be notified. Phone inquiries will not be entertained.

Associate Database Administrator

Responsibilities

The position maintains database management and related software in order to ensure the performance, integrity, security, and availability of ADB's databases.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to the Information Systems and Technology Specialist (Database Administration), Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include
- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a Bachelor degree in MIS, Computer Science or related field; current certification in one or more of Oracle Database Administration, Cognos.
- at least 5 years computer system design, development and programming, including at least 2 years of experience in database administration and management and some systems programming experience; with administration and technical support knowledge and experience in: DBMS: Oracle, ADABAS, MySQL, Sybase; Tools; Oracle Discoverer, Cognos tools; Operating Systems: Novell Netware, Windows 2003, Windows XP, different Unix versions, and other currently installed OS; Groupware/Email: Lotus Notes and other equivalent systems currently installed in the network server; Systems Software/Utilities: Oracle Enterprise Manager, Quest tools, Hummingbird Exceed, TOAD, HP Openview, PC Anywhere, Netware Connect, FTP, Telnet and other software installed.
- expertise in relevant database management systems, database design, systems programming, programming languages, and structure systems analysis and design; expertise in use of database related performance measurement software.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS06-218(4)-OIST** and **job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **6 November 2006.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

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We invite you to bring, fax, e-mail, or mail your resumé and 2x2 photograph to:

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Partner, HR & Communication
Punongbayan & Araullo
19th Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel: (02) 886-5511 loc. 720
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E-mail: hr@pna.ph

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A start-up company is in need of an
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
- Female, single
- Not more than 24 years old
- Proficient in English
- With people and writing skills
- Business management or accounting background
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- Preferably from a prominent university or college

Resumes will be accepted on Wednesday and Thursday, 25 & 26 October 2006 from 2pm to 5pm in Prime Rodsons, Room 811, 8F Ortigas & Co. Building, Ortigas Avenue, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City.

CONSTRUCTION FIRM
URGENTLY NEEDS
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- 10-20 years experience
- Should have sufficient background in overall supervision and management on massive project structure.
- Should have enough exposure in medium rise building, massive concreting job and related structures and finishing works.
- Possesses excellent coordination and communication skills, pro-active and can handle stress and pressure.
- Computer literate

For interested parties, please submit resumé and apply in person from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at:

Unit 48 L.A. Townhomes, Concepcion St.
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- Female, single not more than 27 years old
- Accounting graduate with good scholastic record
- Must be proficient in oral and written communication skills
- Must be computer literate

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- Female, single, not more than 27 years old
- Accounting Graduate with good scholastic record
- Must be proficient in oral and written communication skills
- Must be computer literate

Please apply in person or send your resumé, transcript of records and passport size photo to:

ACS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
U-1108 Antel Global Corporate Center
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E-mail: acs.sec@eastern.com.ph

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- With outstanding creative skills in drawing, sketching, rendering and product display
- At least 2 years work experience in design related field

OPERATIONS ASSISTANT FOR STORE OPERATIONS
- College graduate of preferably a business course
- Female, 23-32 years old
- Flexible, responsive, detail-oriented, self motivated and hardworking.
- Good customer and employee relations
- Ability to lead, motivate and manage team
- Ability to work a flexible schedule to meet the needs of the business

STORE SALES PERSONNEL
- At least 1st year college level
- Female, 22-28 years old, at least 5'4" with a pleasing personality and good client relations and oral communications skills in both English and Filipino.
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila
- Honest, hardworking and energetic. Self motivated and sensitive to customer's needs.

DATA ENCODER
- College graduate
- Female, 23-29 years old
- 1-3 years experience in any business/logistics operations
- Must be computer literate (excel, word, etc)
- Detail oriented with strong follow through; organize and prioritize multiple projects

Qualified applicants for direct hiring may send their resume with 2x2 photo to:

Human Resources Department
#8 Jose Cruz St. Bgy Ugong, Pasig
Or submit to any Apple & Eve Store
Or email to: hr@apple-eve.com

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Don't just make a salary—make a difference for over half-a-million children all over the world. If you are a **mature evangelical born-again Christian**, above reproach in integrity and honesty, with previous experience in Holistic Child Development, then we strongly encourage you to explore employment opportunities with us as:

ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR/ COORDINATOR

Will development and manage the Compassion Alumni Association. Provide direction in program strategy, implementation and monitoring. Acts as the key Compassion liaison with the Association to assure that the Alumni Association accomplishes its purpose. Ensures effective systems are in place to allow optimal utilization of corporate resources.

Minimum Requirements:
- A degree in Business Management or any development/ management related-course
- 8 to 10 years related work experience; Professional competence in leadership, networking, public speaking, finance, administration and systems development
- Knowledgeable in MS Office Applications

PROJECT AUDITOR/ FINANCE ASSOCIATE

Assists the Administration & Finance Department in various functions such as the control, monitoring and improvement of finance and administration practices of ministry partners and projects, data entry, calculation and preparation of project support and grants, preparation and processing of payments, reconciliations, and analyzing and compiling financial information. Responsible in the regular monitoring and review of administration procedures and reports and periodic audits of partner entities. Follows Compassion's matrix management guidelines and policies.

Minimum Requirements:
- A degree in Accounting or Business Management or other related area
- 3 to 5 years experience in auditing and accounting works, preferably a CPA
- Professional competence in analysis and problem solving, bookkeeping/accounting works
- With excellent attention to details and organization skills
- Comfortable with the use of PC and Windows software applications
- Ability to communicate with various cultures and church groups

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) SPECIALIST

Implements and executes IT systems and procedures for the office. Manages the hardware, software, analysis, design, implementation and overall improvement of information technology at the country office. Coordinates efforts to utilize IT that can improve the functioning of the field office. Assists country office staff members to effectively utilize software and systems by facilitating user training.

Minimum Requirements:
- A degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Information Technology or related area
- Minimum of 5 years experience in business information, computer systems, network and server administration and internet security
- Strong knowledge in Microsoft Server 2000 and above, Windows 2000 server configurations, Outlook 2000, Office Suite, IIS Server, User Security, Windows networking, Help Desk operations including constructions of desktops, training users, DNS; Knowledgeable in scripting and programming

CORRESPONDENCE ANALYST

Performs a variety of routine tasks in support of SDM processes. Generates, organizes, records, and tracks child information and correspondence documents. Monitors quality of documents and prepares them for entry into database. Assists with other clerical tasks such as filing, copying, and sorting. Works with project, field country, partner country, and international office staff to process sponsorship-related information. Performs other tasks as assigned by supervisor.

Minimum Requirements:
- A degree in social science/psychology or communications
- 3 to 5 years experience in development work preferably in holistic child development
- Professional competence in customer service, clerical/ administrative work with keen attention to details
- Knowledgeable in MS Office Applications; can handle other office equipment

If you satisfy the above requirements and desire to minister to children with us, kindly send your resumé with recent 2x2 photo, letter of intent and pastor's recommendation to:

The Human Resource Specialist
Compassion International – Philippine Office
2nd Floor 99 E&L Bldg., Don A. Roces Avenue, QC 1103
Contact Numbers: (632) 373-3021 to 23 Fax (632) 410-6972
Email: alamigo@ph.ci.org

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SALES MERCHANDISER
- Specifically an innerwear/underwear merchandiser,
- Can monitor inventory cycles to facilitate purchase orders.

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
- A graduate of fabric and clothing industry,
- Has knowledge in Corel Draw, Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator,
- Has a strong sense of fashion.

Interested applicants may e-mail or fax their resumes at 4168836 or email them at underneath_mossimo@yahoo.com

A prestigious Group of Companies engaged in land development, housing, agri-based industries, public transportation, security services and other corporate activities needs urgently

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ADMIN. ASSISTANTS male or female, college graduates.

Compensation is along industry practice and may be negotiated on the basis of experience, competence and other qualifications.

Send application with resume to P.O. Box No. 0001, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines or email to ara@info.com.ph

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907 Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino cor Valero Streets, Makati City
www.profilemanpower.com

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interested applicants may send their resumé to:
emanila@hanmail.net
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A manufacturing firm is looking for skilled and qualified personnel to handle the following job below:

- Executive Secretary
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- Human Resources Manager
- Accountant
- Account Executive
- Merchandising Supervisor
- Quality Controller
- Warehouse Manager
- Marketing / Sales Dept.
- Plant Manager

Please send your resumé with picture to this address:
P.O. Box 8098
1222 Makati City

IFC
International Finance Corporation
World Bank Group

The International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank, has established a technical assistance program for Small and Medium Enterprises in the Philippines (PEP Philippines). PEP Philippines, with contributions from other bilateral and multi-lateral donors, has offices in Manila and Davao, Mindanao. The program has a mandate to provide technical assistance to support the development of small and medium enterprises, particularly in Mindanao, initially in three key areas: access to finance, agribusiness linkages and business enabling environment.

PEP Philippines is currently seeking an Associate Operations Officer for its Manila office.

The Associate Operations Officer will assist PEP-Philippines' Investment Climate program promote and facilitate legal, policy and regulatory reform that will support an improved investment climate, especially for SMEs. The tasks involves analyzing the investment climate at the sub-national level, promulgating comparisons between sub-national governments, developing investment promotion capacity and potentially engaging in municipal simplification – business registration and licensing simplification.

The successful candidate should possess the following qualifications:

- Minimum of 4 years experience in the SME/private sector and/or in providing technical assistance to private organizations and/or governmental bodies;
- Experience with major analytical research initiatives
- Master's degree in Business Administration, Economics, Law, Public Policy or related specialty or a Bachelor's degree and five or more years' relevant work experience;
- Fluent English, both spoken and written;
- Ability to communicate ideas clearly and confidently, conduct research and analysis on difficult but well defined multiple tasks, articulate issues and recommend solutions;
- Ability and willingness to perform task management;
- Knowledge of business registration procedures in the Philippines;
- Experience working with donor funded organizations;
- Good networks and contacts with the Philippine public and private sector; and
- Track record of producing high quality written work.
- As a representative of the World Bank Group, all professional activities are expected to be consistent with our Core Values: personal honesty, integrity, commitment, working together in teams – with openness and trust; empowering others and respecting differences; encouraging risk-taking and responsibility; enjoying our work and our families.

These positions will require domestic and some international travel. The position will be based in IFC's PEP Philippines Manila office. Salaries will be commensurate to qualification and experience. Candidates are invited to send resumes to contactuspepp@ifc.org not later than the close of business hours on October 31, 2006. All applications will be treated with strictest confidence. For corporate information, please visit www.ifc.org.

Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

• WANTED •

POSITION	**TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TRAINEE**
QUALIFICATIONS :	**Licensed Electrical Engineer** or **Mechanical Engineer** for both field and office work
:	Possess communication skills in both oral and written English
:	Two years related work experience
:	Computer literate
:	Exposure to mobile equipment / transport industry is highly preferred
:	Willing to undergo training for professional/career advancement in the industry
:	Willing to travel to all ports nation-wide ie. Visayas or Mindanao
:	A permanent resident of Malabon, Navotas, Manila or Pasay Area
:	Honest, hardworking, healthy, trustworthy and excellent team-player
:	Male 25-28 years old

Competitive compensation, negotiable.

Qualified applicants may send their application letter with 2x2 picture, resumé, transcript of records, eligibility and work / character references to PO BOX # 706 Herrera Tower #98 Herrera St. V.A. Rufino Salcedo Village, Makati City or through liftmstr@info.com.ph.

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Apply personally at:
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Bring Transcript of Records, Resumé with cover letter, SSS and TIN number and I.D. picture.

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNT OFFICERS (FULL TIME • MANILA BASED) - Female with pleasing personality; graduate of any 4-yr. business course; hardworking, honest and trustworthy; willing to be assigned on field works; can handle clients w/ minimum supervision; at least 1-year minimum experience in selling of foodservice equipment; specialized in selling Supermarket equipment and Ice Making Machines.

SENIOR SERVICE TECHNICIAN - Male at least 30 yrs. old, BSME grad; adept in the fundamentals for the design and application of commercial refrigeration & trouble shooting of refrigeration system; preferably with advance theoretical knowledge in RAC. Must be computer literate & w/ good communication skills.

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0918-9142851
0920 9528198

Accounting Assistant

- Accounting graduate with at least 1 year experience in all phases of Accounting
- Computer literate
- With knowledge in Government Reportorials such as SSS, Phil-Health/Pag-Ibig, BIR
- Willing to work long hours
- Can work under pressure with minimum supervision

Send your resumé or apply personally at
#5 San Juan St., Pasay City
or call at 5240872
Look for Mr. Renato V. Santos

Bring credentials like, SSS, TIN, Police & NBI clearance

We are a company engaged in fabrication and construction in need of the following:

Mechanical Engineer
Civil Engineer

Fresh graduates are encouraged
Living within the vicinity of Parañaque City is an advantage but not required

Please send your resume to
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R.A. Nolido Construction Corporation
is looking for:

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- Licensed Civil Engineer
- With or without experience

Please apply in person with detailed resumé at:
Unit 308 Bencom Bldg.,
146 West Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 9268209/4141523

ACCOUNTING CLERK/ BOOKKEEPER

- Male, single, not more than 28 years old
- Accounting graduate
- Computer literate
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Can work under pressure
- With accounting working experience preferred
- Willing to be assigned in Visayas and Mindanao areas

Please send resume with picture to:
brplaw@yahoo.com or Rach_rjt@yahoo.com

We are an innovative and dynamic architectural glass company looking for:

One (1) Marketing Personnel

Responsible for marketing state of the art glass products with compensation based on salary and commission.

Qualifications:
- College graduate
- Marketing or sales oriented
- Proficient in oral and written English
- Between 23-30 years old
- Able to work under pressure

Good knowledge in Interior Design or Architecture will be an advantage. Previous work experience in selling architectural finishing products will also be an advantage.

Interested and qualified applicants are requested to send their resumés via email to: **alndv@yahoo.com**

XAX MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT
14F Rufino Pacific Tower, Ayala Avenue

XME is currently expanding its horizons through the world wide web. We are currently developing online shopping sites for the Filipino market.

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Male/Female
Undergraduates and fresh Graduates are welcome to apply
Knowledgable in HTML, Flash, Photoshop
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Interested applicants may hand carry their resume and portfolio to

XAX MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT
14F Rufino Pacific Tower, Ayala Avenue
corner Rufino Street, Makati City
Tel 811-0725
Email jmm@xaxmusic.com

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* At least 3 years work experience in a similar function;
* Personable and gifted with winsome personality;

Writer
* At least a Bachelor's Degree holder in Communication Arts, Journalism or equivalent course,
* Exemplary writing skills, adept in research and business language
* With work experience in media or a publication an advantage;

Seminar Coordinator
* At least a Bachelor's Degree holder in Marketing, Communication Arts, Management or equivalent course;
* Highly organized and detail-oriented
* With experience in managing corporate events

Junior Artist
* A Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts or equivalent;
* Creative and imaginative
* Proficient in Adobe Photoshop, Corel Draw and MS Powerpoint

Receptionist/ Secretary
* College Graduate
* Pleasing Personality
* Demonstrates potential for advancement

Interested applicants may submit a resume to the following address:

Call Vanessa or Zandy at 893-4762 or 893-5887
Or email resume to: careers_pr@yahoo.com

A Multinational Japanese Trading Firm is Urgently in need of a:

BUSINESS STAFF

QUALIFICATIONS

Business Degree from a reputable university.
With at least 5 yrs business work experience
Experience in the sale of industrial plant equipment is a definite advantage;
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ACCCEPTING APPLICATIONS IN PERSON
BETWEEN 4-6PM ONLY NOT LATER THAN FRI. OCT. 27, 2006.

BRING THE FOLLOWING:
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c/o ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
9/F L.V. Locsin Building,
corner Ayala and Makati Avenues,
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SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE INTERVIEWED IMMEDIATELY & WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR PYSCHOMETRIC TEST.
CHOSEN CANDIDATE WILL BE ASKED TO REPORT ASAP.

SALES EXECUTIVE

MALE/FEMALE, SINGLE/MARRIED NOT OVER 25 YEARS OF AGE, COLLEGE GRADUATE, COMPUTER LITERATE WITH GOOD SPEAKING VOICE, WELL-ORGANIZED, FRIENDLY WITH PLEASING PERSONALITY AND HAS THE ABILITY TO DEAL WITH PROSPECTIVE CLIENTS.

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THE PERSONNEL
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MAKATI CITY 1205
PHILIPPINES

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InterContinental Hotels Group owns and manages a portfolio of well-respected brands recognized the world over. An industry pioneer, we are the largest hotel company by number of rooms and manage the world's largest loyalty program. Our expansion shows our commitment to sustained growth into the future. We seek enthusiastic, friendly people who will lend their talents to help us realize our vision of being the world's leading hospitality brand owner.

With more than 3,800 hotels in 6 continents across more than 100 countries, WE are the most global Hotel Company.

Our Philippine Reservations Center is looking for:

■ HR Specialist

Job summary

- Provides assistance to all employees concerning Human Resource related policies and personnel issues
- Provides full cycle recruitment services to all departments
- Ensures the implementation of key Human Resources support processes such as benefits, reporting and leave administration
- Assists with organizational planning, salary administration, and manpower development

Requirements

- Must have a degree in Human Resources, Business Administration, Organizational Development or an equivalent combination of education and work related experience
- At least 2 years exposure in all facets of HR: Employee Relations, Recruitment and C&B
- Strong recruitment background
- Marketing experience an advantage
- Ability to carry out multiple tasks with minimal supervision
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills with high attention to details
- Outstanding administrative, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must be willing to work on a rotating shift

■ Reporting Analysts

Job summary

- Supports strategic and tactical marketing and business issues for global clients
- Provides analytical support on operational and program structure issues for marketing programs
- Provides analysis and reporting for ongoing and adhoc projects
- Assists in compiling lists of email and direct mail recipients based on statistical models built by senior consultants using SAS querying tool

Requirements

- Must have a degree in Business, Marketing, Statistics, Economics or related field
- At least 2 years working with relational decision-support databases (preferably a data warehousing environment), along with demonstrated quantitative skills
- Strong experience with SAS and other data processing tools like Business Objects.
- Must be able to prioritize and handle multiple projects
- Must be able to communicate technical information to non-technical audiences
- Must be able to work with minimal supervision

■ Customer Service Representatives / Reservation Sales Agents (English or Spanish)

Job summary

- Represents the Company by coordinating all aspects of Priority Club Programs and serves as liaison between the guest and hotels in order to maintain member satisfaction
- Delivers Individualized Customer Experiences by focusing on finding hotel accommodations that will best fit our guests needs

Requirements

- Must be a Bachelor/College degree holder
- Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills with one of the following languages: English / Spanish
- Customer service and/or sales experience an advantage
- Education and experience in the hospitality or IT industry an advantage
- Must be willing to work on a rotating shift

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The Personnel Manager
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Email RESUMÉ to:
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or call MAY @ 0921-6104354 or DIANE @ 0928-7972264. Accepting RESUMÉ every Mon-Friday 9AM - 5PM
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If you are interested, pls contact:
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Tel. (046) 402-0048; Cell phone: 0920-922-9196
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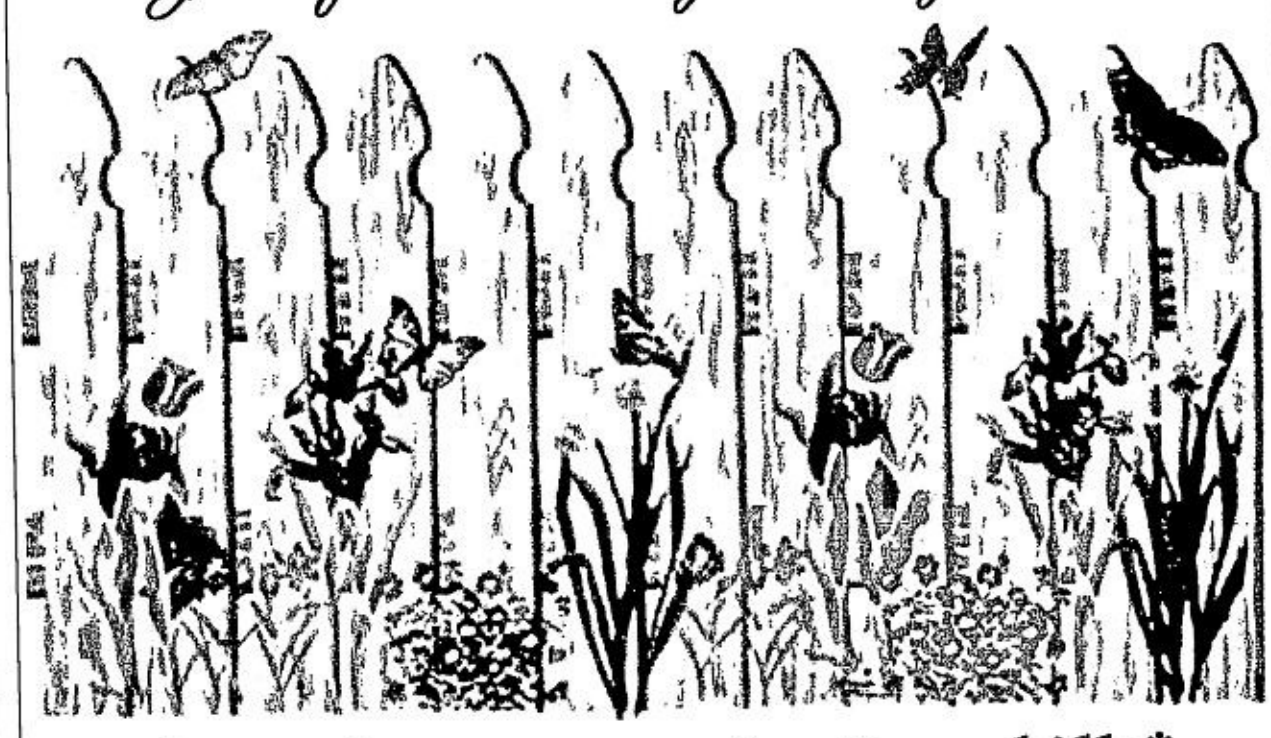

Assertive communication skills* build 'good fences' at work

* Assertive communication skills is the ability to honestly express your opinions, feelings, attitudes and rights with confidence in a way that doesn't infringe on the rights of others.

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- At least finished 2nd year level in college

Candidate Profile
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- Can type at least 20wpm
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- Prior customer service experience is a plus
- Good problem solving skills as the callers are describing a device and CCRs are helping them solve the problem.
- Good learning agility
- Willingness to adapt to changes
- High level of patience & empathy due to age of callers
- Medical course graduate (preferred but not required)

Dimension and Scope
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- At least finished 2nd year level in college

Candidate Profile
- Knowledge of basic computer operations
- Willingness to rotate shifts, as needed
- Courteous with strong customer service orientation
- Dependable with proficient attention to detail
- Good listening and responding skills
- Solid problem solving skills
- Technical knowledge in DSL, Internet and Broadband preferred, but not required

Dimension and Scope
Interface with customers via inbound or outbound calls or the Internet for the purpose of resolving routine problems with products or services.

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For information on how to apply, text CVG HELP to 2308 Globe/Touch Mobile or to 2951 Smart/AMP/Talk & Text.

Ortigas, Alabang and Makati recruitment sites will be operational on October 24, 2006.

RECRUITMENT SITES

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(02) 857-7777

Makati Office
Convergys One
6796 Ayala Avenue
Salcedo St. Legaspi Village
Makati City
(02) 756-7188

Cebu Office
F. Arcenas Street
Arcenas Estate
Banawa Hill
Cebu City
(032) 416-5810

Commonwealth Office
Pillman Commercial Center
#46 Don Mariano Marcos Avenue, Pillman, Quezon City
(02) 456-7088

U-Belt Office
Gate 1, St. Thomas Square
1501 Espana Boulevard
cor. Padre Campa St.
Sampaloc, Manila
(02) 735-2006

Alabang Office
Block 4 Northgate Cyberzone
Muntinlupa City
(02) 758-1688

CONVERGYS
Our thinking. Our doing.

Tesda offers scholarships geared for overseas employment

By Joel V. Nigos

IN ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO MATCH the requirements of industries for workers and the need of the people for jobs, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority is offering scholarships aimed at training the youth for careers in business outsourcing processes and other technical-vocational courses.

Launched this year and aptly named President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Training-for-Work Scholarship Project, beneficiaries of these scholarships are provided training in courses which have high employability both here and abroad.

Secretary Augusto Syjuco, director general of Tesda, said that there are 100,000 scholarships available. These include training for business outsourcing processes such as for call center agents and medical transcriptionists, and tech-voc courses like for bartenders, software developers, 2D/3D animators, legal transcriptionists, welders, among others.

Stressing the necessity of providing training for the youth, Syjuco said "Giving scholarships is extremely important because it gives them the *bwelo* to get these young people started."

He added that Tesda understands the flight of ordinary Filipino families who do not have the financial resources to send their young to school for training or to study a career. "This way we are empowering our people, the students by giving them a start in their educational career after high school," he said.

The various careers in which Tesda offers scholarships were also carefully chosen, and are all geared toward the overseas market.

"The trainings that we or our accredited training institutions provide are at par with world-class standards so when they graduate they are really geared for the global market. And since these careers are very much in demand abroad, we believe that beneficiaries of our scholarships would not have a hard time finding jobs."

Syjuco further said that with a job, it would now allow these people to go up the ladder on their own power already. "They can also finish four-year courses because the units that they obtained through these scholarships are credited in college."

Those who wish to avail of the scholarships must be a high school graduate, except for software developers and 2D/3D animators who should have finished any programming or other related IT courses. Trainings are done at Tesda-accredited training centers or schools or right at the Tesda Center.

Partnership with Rotary

To reach the right people who would benefit from the scholarships, Tesda last Oct. 18 signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Rotary International District 3830. Led by Syjuco and Luz Pacifico, assistant governor of RI District 3830, the partnership aims to develop at least 3,000 Level 4 call center agents by providing PGMA Train-for-Work Scholarships.

Syjuco noted that one of their problems in handing out the scholarships is to find the right people who would get it. With 3,000 scholarships awarded to RI District 3830, Rotary would help Tesda locate possible scholars within its district. The Rotary district covers Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Makati, and parts of Rizal.

Syjuco said that in 2005 alone, some 112,000 Filipinos were working in call centers, bringing in revenues of $1.12 billion for the year. And according to industry estimates, more than a million Filipinos will be employed in the call center industry, with more than $12 billion in revenues by the year 2010.

"This year, we have a shortfall of at least 100,000 qualified call center workers. Meaning, if we could successfully train 100,000 Filipinos, ready jobs await them in call centers across the country," he emphasized.

The Inquirer is the media partner of the project, which aims to take care of the aspect of information dissemination.

"The Inquirer has the largest circulation and distribution among national newspapers and so through this we hope we would be able to locate the people that we need," stressed Syjuco. Giving of the PGMA Train-for-Work Scholarships, by the way, is not confined to that Rotary district. Anybody can avail of any of the scholarships. All one has to do is to go to the nearest Tesda Center in his area or call the Tesda hotline 887-7777 for inquiries.

Tesda is the government agency tasked to manage and supervise technical education and skills development in the country. It has been the leading partner in the development of the Filipino workforce with world-class competence and positive work values.

TESDA-ROTARY PARTNERSHIP
With the theme "Empowering Community through Skills Development," Secretary Augusto Syjuco, Tesda director general, and Luz Pacifico of Rotary International District 3830 led the signing ceremony held last Oct. 18 at the Tesda Women's Center, Taguig City. The partnership aims to develop at least 3,000 Level 4 call center agents by providing PGMA Train-for-Work Scholarships. Also present is the Inquirer Classifieds Division Head Jesse Rebustillo.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB Market OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT EXPO 2006

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EXHIBITORS

Career Planners Specialists International Inc.
International Resource Development Services
CDK International Manpower Services Corp.
Sunway International Manpower Services Inc.
Star Express Placement Inc.
Land Bank
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
Peridot International Resources Inc.
Orient Holdings Philippines Inc.
FMW Human Resources International (FMW-HRI)
SL Search Corp.
Arab Peninsula Manpower Services Corp.
Humania International Inc.
Philippine Health Insurance Corp.
Alabang Fortune-8 Global School Inc.
Jensen Manpower International
Stateland Inc.
EDI Staffbuilders International Inc.
Globerec Manpower Services Inc.
Businesswise International Resources Inc.

Company profiles

Career Planners Specialists International Inc.
Career Planners Specialists International Inc. has been supplying Filipino manpower throughout the world for over two decades. It supplies manpower in fields such as professional, medical, highly technical and skilled, construction, production, manufacturing, surveying and IT. The company management, counting on the dedication, commitment, deep involvement, experiences and professionalism of all its personnel, set out to pursue productive opportunities and the realization of mutually satisfying and beneficial working relationships between its primary and secondary clientele, by keeping and maintaining excellent standards in screening its customers, provision of quality services and its timely delivery, and the continuous pursuit of innovative approaches in meeting the requirements of its customer in accordance with existing laws.

International Resource Development Services
International Resource Development Services (IRDS) was organized and approved as a private recruitment agency in 1984. It is considered as one of the most trusted and reputable recruitment agencies in the Philippines. IRDS is properly managed by competent officers who are well recognized by the Philippines in the field of recruitment. Recipient of awards from the Department of Labor and Employment thru Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, its staff are composed of aggressive, efficient, trusted and dedicated officers who had extensive experience in recruitment business.

CDK International Manpower Services Corp.
CDK International Manpower Services Corp. is a manpower consultancy company committed to professional manpower placement. It was established in 1990. CDK stands for the names of the three children of the owner, C for Cheryll, D for Daryl and K for Kaye. Its aim is to assist people in achieving a rewarding career and a secured future, combined with total client and employee satisfaction. Satisfied clients include medium and large companies engaged in a variety of businesses. Presently the company's activities are concentrated in the Middle East, Gulf Countries, Asia and Europe. Its branches and associate offices are located nationwide.

Sunway International Manpower Services Inc.
Sunway International Manpower Services Inc. is a duly licensed recruitment agency that specializes in recruiting and deploying overseas Filipino workers to the United States of America, Israel, United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Doha, Qatar, Kuwait, Singapore, Brunei, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Ireland. It also deployed workers from Nepal, India, Indonesia and Thailand. It is formed by a group of competent and hardworking staff who are well-experienced in the industry.
At present, it fills the growing international and local demand for efficient, dedicated recruitment agent to render quality management services for the interest and protection of company owners. It is operating successfully in fields such as technical, industrial and mechanical, hotels and catering, office and secretarial, sales and marketing, construction, medical professionals and caregivers. The company always maintains a manpower pool of qualified, hardworking and honest skilled, non-skilled and professional applicants.

Star Express Placement Inc.
Star Express Placement Inc. is a corporation established on April 1980 and licensed by POEA as a private recruitment agency with authority to recruit, train and deploy all kinds of land-based workers. Star Express' operations started in Middle East countries. But in early 1988, when new markets emerged, it was one of the very few selected recruitment agencies who was able to secure job orders from the USA, Taiwan, Singapore and Japan. A Special Citation was awarded to Star Express by the POEA on Dec. 15, 1989 for their invaluable contribution to the national development program and by playing a major role as the government's partner in the recruitment industry. DOLE and POEA also commended the company as one of the top performers in the industry. The company hires overseas workers in areas such as IT, hotel management, manufacturing and other skilled and professional fields for deployment to Canada, Malaysia, Japan and other countries in Asia.

Land Bank
The Land Bank of the Philippines is a government financial institution that strikes a balance in fulfilling its social mandate of promoting countryside development while remaining financially viable. This dual function makes Land Bank unique. The profits derived from its commercial banking operations are used to finance the Bank's developmental programs and initiatives. Over the years, it has successfully managed this tough balancing act as evidenced by the continued expansion of its loan portfolio in favor of its priority sectors: the farmers and fisherfolk, small and medium enterprises and microenterprises, livelihood loans and agribusiness, agri-infrastructure and other agri- and environment-related projects. Today, it is by far the largest formal credit institution in the rural areas. Its credit delivery system is able to penetrate a substantial percentage of the country's total number of municipalities. It also ranks among the top five commercial banks in the country in terms of deposits, assets, loans and capital.

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) was established through the enactment of Republic Act No. 7796 otherwise known as the "Technical Education and Skills Development Act of 1994", which was signed into law by President Fidel V. Ramos on Aug. 25, 1994. Its major thrust is the formulation of a comprehensive development plan for middle-level manpower-based on the National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan. This plan shall provide for a reformed industry-based training program that includes apprenticeship, dual training system and other similar schemes. Overall, TESDA formulates manpower and skills plans, sets appropriate skills standards and tests, coordinates and monitors manpower policies and programs, and provides policy directions and guidelines for resource allocation for the TVET institutions in both the private and public sectors.

Peridot International Resources Inc.
Peridot International Resources Inc. is a private overseas recruitment agency primarily engaged in the recruitment and deployment of land-based workers for overseas employment. It was established on Aug. 10, 2000 and is 100-percent Filipino-owned and controlled. Its owners consist of entrepreneurs, and professionals, who, collectively, represent many years of experience in business, government and community service. It provides the highest quality of services and the most qualified workers, musicians and entertainers. It believes that Filipino workers, musicians and entertainers compared favorably with the best and the brightest workers that other countries can offer in the international job market. It supplies reliable manpower for construction industry, refinery and petrochem industry, mining industry, electronics industry, hotel industry (music lounges, bars and clubs), offices, hospitals, factories and even plantations and other industries.

Orient Holdings Philippines Inc.
Orient Holdings Philippines Inc. (OHPI) is a recruitment and placement agency which aims to provide clients on a continuing basis, with highly qualified honest, flexible and competent Filipino professional and non-professional workers who are expert and their own field for employment. It has been in the industry for 20 years. OHPI endeavors to be the better option that acts as the LINK between the world-class Filipino workforce to the world seeking better opportunities.

FMW Human Resources International (FMW-HRI)
FMW Human Resources International (FMW-HRI) is a 100-percent Filipino-owned company based in Makati City, Philippines established in 1998. It is a subsidiary of the FMW Group Holdings Inc., which was organized by a group of highly qualified Filipino professionals working on various fields in Saudi Arabia hence the adoption of the acronym FMW (Filipino Migrant Worker) to its corporate name. The company's technical expertise combined with wealth of experience in working overseas, its familiarity with the working conditions and thorough understanding of overseas employment are its best assurance to find, assess and select the most qualified manpower required by foreign principals. It is a bonafide member of the Association of Recruitment Practitioners of the Philippines Inc. (ARPPI), and the Philippine Association of Service Exporters Inc. (PASEI), two of the most reputed organization in the recruitment industry.

COMPANY / Page 8

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DOMESTIC HELPER – HONGKONG/ QATAR & OMAN
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MASA ACCESS & SERVICES, QATAR
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QATARI ENGINEERS & ASSOCIATES, QATAR
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- Planning Engineer

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- Draftsman
- Duct Fabricator
- Labours/Helper
- Computer Operator

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- Asst. Technician-construction materials
- Driver-Heavy
- Driver-Light
- Rig Driller (geotechnical)
- Accountant
- Purchaser
- Secretary
- QA/QC (Materials Lab)

ABDULGHANI NASSIR TRANSPORT, QATAR
- Auto Electrical/Electronics Technician
- Trailer Driver

DR. HASSAN MOHD, HASSAN DENTAL CLINIC, QATAR
- Dental Hygienist (Female)

AMASEL TAILOR, QATAR
- Fashion Designer (Male)

MOHAMED ALI (DESCON), QATAR
- Trailer Drivers

Interested applicants may apply PERSONALLY and must bring two (2) sets (Photocopy only) of the following documents with original for verification: Resumé (w/ detailed Job Description), School Credentials, Employment Cert., Training/Seminar Certs., NBI Clearance, Passport, 2 pcs 2x2 picture and 2 pcs. whole body picture (Business/Formal Attire for Hotel Staff applicants only)
(Pls. use only short or A4 size bond paper)

MAIN OFFICE:
Mezzanine, A. Pierre N Paul Bldg., Mabini St. cor. Flores St. Ermita, Manila (Near U.N. Ave. & Ermita Church)
Tel.#(02) 3035687 / 3030083 / Fax (02) 5235324

BRANCH OFFICE:
3 Fl LM Chan Bldg., Quezon Ave., San Fernando City, La Union (Near PARTAS station)
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- SPA STAFF

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- FOREMAN/SUPERVISOR FOR SHOWROOM
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- LABOUR

All applicants without GCC experience are welcome. Apply in person at:

BUSINESSWISE INT'L. RESOURCES, INC.
POEA Lic. No. 043-LB-121605-UL
Unit 205 State Condominium IV, Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, MM Philippines
Tels. (632) 721-5583, 721-5269; TeleFax No. 724-3306, 0917-5776779
Bring resumé, certificate of employment, 2 pcs. 2x2 pictures
Email: businesswise@tri-isys.com
Website: http://www.businesswise.com.ph

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Sr. Rotating Equipment Engineer-Critical, Designers

(Civil Department) - Civil Engineers
(Control & Automation) - Sr. Engineers, Sr Designers-TCN, Engineers
(Electrical Department) - Sr. Engineers-Infrastructure, Sr. Protection Engineers, Sr. Engineers-PFAT
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Above category should have at least 3-5 years experience

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3. Quantity Surveyor
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6. Electromechanical Tech.
7. Asphalt Plant Operator
8. Sales Engineer
9. Heavy Equipment Mechanic
10. Piping Engineer/ Mechanical
11. Grader Operator
13. Planning Engineer

Above category should have at least 3-5 years experience

GENERAL DYNAMICS TELECOM SAUDI ARABIA LTD in AL KHOBAR KSA
Accreditation No. 73654

Urgently in need of
1. Safety Engineers
2. Quality Assurance Inspectors
3. OSP Design Engineer
4. QA/ QC Manager
5. CADD Operator

Above category should have at least 3-5 years experience

OTAISHAN CONSULTING OFFICE
sister company of ABDUL AZIZ TURKI AL OTAISHAN EST FOR CONTRACTING in RIYADH KSA
Accreditation No. 73959

Urgently need of: Ready Visa
1. Instrument Engineer
2. Civil Design Engineers
3. Electrical Engineers
4. Piping Engineers
5. Mechanical Draftsman
6. Architectural Draftsman

Above category should have at least 3-5 years experience

Interested applicants are hereby directed to personally apply at Globrec Manpower Services, Inc (POEA - 255-LB-091503-R) at 8th Floor King's Court 1 Bldg. 2129 Chino Roces Avenue Makati City Telephone 811-2058, 811-2064, 811-2066 Fax. No. 811-2172 Email Add: globre@philonline.com, globrec@pldtdsl.net Web site www.globrec.com.ph and bring two (2) sets of comprehensive resume with detailed jobs description, certificate of employment, diploma and TOR, 2x2 picture

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY, NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED, BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITER

CDK International Manpower Services Corp.

POEA LIC. No. 002 LB-010603 R

Main Office:
Suite Nos. 2 & 3 G/F Midland Plaza Hotel
M. Adriatic St., Ermita, Manila, Phils.
Tel. No. 536-8350 / 523-8665 / 536-3271
Fax No. 523-8666 / 536-3273
E-mail Add: cdk@compass.com.ph
http // www.cdkinternational.com

Cebu Branch:
SUITE 3 Galleria Fuente Bldg.
Maxilom Ave., Cebu City
Telefax: (032) 256-3206

JOB VACANCIES FOR

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, QATAR, KUWAIT, BAHRAIN AND OMAN

M.H. ALSHAYA CO.W.L.L.
Accreditation No.: 68111

CARREFOUR
Accreditation No.: 10053983

PTOHO MAGIC INT'L. L.L.C.
Accreditation No.: 60554

LANDMARK KUWAIT
Accreditation No.: 10044186

SAFCO ALUMINUM FACTORY
Accreditation No.: 10078218

TOP URGENT!!!

MULTI TECHNICIAN / INSTALLER / FABRICATOR
MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
MAINTENANCE MANAGER
DESIGNER / DRAFTSMAN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
VISUAL MERCHANDISER
COUNTER SALES STAFF
ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT
FORKLIFT OPERATOR
PRINTER OPERATOR
ACCOUNTING CLERK
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
SALES ASSOCIATES
RECEIVING CLERK
MERCHANDISER
PRO-MARKET
SUPERVISOR
CASHIERS
IT CLERK
BARISTA

- **All of the above positions must have at least 1-3 years related experience.**

Applicants should submit all their credentials before the employers scheduled interview dates for document evaluation and preliminary screening.

Interested applicants may apply personally at the above address beside Robinsons Place Ermita or at our Cebu branch daily from Monday - Friday & Saturday (Half Day) only. Please bring two (2) sets of resumé with typewritten job description, photocopy of diploma or transcript of records, employment certificates, NBI Clearance, valid passport, 2 pcs. 2 X 2 & whole body pictures, 1 long brown envelope and other pertinent documents OR YOU CAN VISIT OUR ON LINE APPLICATION THRU OUR WEBSITE - **www.cdkinternational.com**

For Manpower Pooling Only!
No fees to be collected / Beware of illegal recruiters!

Not required:
- **CGFNS**
- **Local Board**

VCS VISA CONSULTANCY SERVICES
Immigration Consultancy ICHP Healthcare Professionals

All Nurses!!!

Welcome to the **U.S.A.**!
Apply for an **IMMIGRANT VISA** right now!!!
Join our free orientation!!!

To register, call or text your <full name> space <profession> space <preferred schedule> i.e.: date/time

Orientation Schedules:
Every Monday to Friday
10:30 am – 11:00 am
11:30 am – 12:00 am
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Just bring a photocopy of your Resume w/2x2 pic, RLE, Clock hours for BSPT, School and PRC credentials.

VCS Manila:
02.374.8756
02.374.6752
0922.527.9903
0920.295.4576
0915.516.3883
Suite 402, Pacific Corporate Center, West Ave., Quezon City

ICHP Iloilo:
033.509.5589
033.336.2733
0922.562.4693
3/f ATM Bldg., Jalandoni – cor Ledesma St. Iloilo City

ICHP Cebu:
032.346.1962
032.344.6097
0922.554.2058
Door 1-J Freestar Arcade H. Cortes St. Subangdaku, Mandaue City

ICHP Davao:
082.221.2488
0922.575.2863
Unit 12 Elena Arcade Duterte St., Davao City

LUZERN INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES CORP.

Unit 202 Casa Maivar Bldg., 1343 Gen. Malvar St. cor. Singalong, Malate, Manila
Website: www.luzern-intl.com
POEA License: POEA 549-LB-112202-R

NOW HIRING FOR NIGERIA, UNDER AIM CONSULTANTS LIMITED NIGERIA, WEST AFRICA

1. **CIVIL ENGINEER: STRUCTURAL DESIGNER** (Not for Supervision, but for design) — 2 positions
2. **CIVIL ENGINEER: HIGHWAY DESIGNER** (Not for Supervision, but for design) — 2 positions
3. **SPECIALIST: AIRCON & REFRIGERATION** (Technician) — 2 positions
4. **PROFESSIONALS FOR:** 600MM GAS PIPELINE PROJECT: EACH OF THE FOLLOWING POSTS: — 1 position
   PROJECT MANAGER * ENGINEERING MANAGER * CONSTRUCTION MANAGER * COMMERCIAL MANAGER * SENIOR ENGINEER (one for each of the following: *Design/ Process/ Mechanical/ Civil/ Instrument/ Electrical/ Cathodic Protection/ Welding*) * **RESIDENT ENGINEER * QUANTITY SURVEYOR / COST ENGINEER * COMMISSIONING / TEST ENGINEER * LIAISON ENGINEER-Nigeria * INSPECTOR** (one for each of the following: Electrical/ Instrument, Mechanical, Welding/ Radiography, Crossing/ Tie-In, Coat and Wrap, String, backfill and clean up, R.O.W/ Ditch)

Qualifications:
- Must have good moral character
- With experienced in their respective fields

All applications to be addressed to: **LUZERN INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES CORP.** and **send unfailingly a copy by e-mail to jobs@aim-consultants.com. CV's received by E-mail will be treated faster.** Only short listed applicants will be interviewed by phone and email.

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY, NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED
Mag-Ingat sa Illegal Recruiter

MEDTRONIX

Medical Supplies and Equipment

A fast growing company engaged in the distribution of various medical supplies & equipment is looking for

SALES EXECUTIVE (Male/Female)

Successful candidate will help contribute to the achievement of the business sales quota must be able to conduct Product Presentations & briefing to clients

- Medical/Business course graduate. Able to relate well w/ customers. Willing to be assigned in Metro Manila; Tactful & w/ good communication skills; Min. of 2 years experience in selling medical supplies. Knowledge in selling Cardiopulmonary Cardiovascular, Critical Care, Blood Bank & Disinfectant Products is an advantage Responsible, honest & w/ pleasing personality; Chemists are welcome to apply

ACCOUNTING STAFF (Female)

- BS Accountancy graduate, 21-35 yrs of age; Willing to render work for extended hours At least one year related work experience; Responsible, honest & w/ self-initiative

***All applicants for the above positions must be computer literate.*

Please send resume to: The HR Officer
Medtronix Medical Supplies & Equipment
72-A Scout Limbaga St., Tomas Morato, Quezon City
or email at: med3@medtronixmedicals.com

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT!

FERNA CORPORATION (a food ingredients company) is currently in need of young, dynamic people to join our team. Below are the required qualifications for the following job openings

SALES PROFESSIONALS (CODE: S/SP)
- 25-35 years old
- College Graduate, preferably with experience in Sales or Marketing
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate (Windows/MS-Office, a must)
- With pleasing personality, resourceful, hardworking and trustworthy

TECHNICAL SERVICES STAFF (CODE: TSD/S)
- Female/male, single, not over 35 years old
- Graduate of BS Food Technology or BS Food Nutrition or Dietetics or any related course
- Experience in baking and culinary or in beverage product formulation, an advantage
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate (Windows/MS-Office, a must)

FERNA CORPORATION
The Food Ingredients Specialist!
16 Bernardo St., San Rafael Village, MM (near Tondo, Manila)
Interested applicants may call at 2536136
Look for BETH or RHEA
You may fax your resumé with 2x2 photo and indicated application code at 253-5920/or email at ferna@skyinet.net

REGISTERED NURSES & LICENSED PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

WORK IN THE U.S.A.

Delegates from New York, USA of
INTERMED PLACEMENT USA, INC.
will conduct its Manila Conference
On November 18 and 19, 2006 (Saturday & Sunday)
At Century Park Hotel, Manila

Interested candidates may register by sending the following:
1. Comprehensive CV/Resumé (include contact info.)
2. PRC Certificate
3. Date of Preference

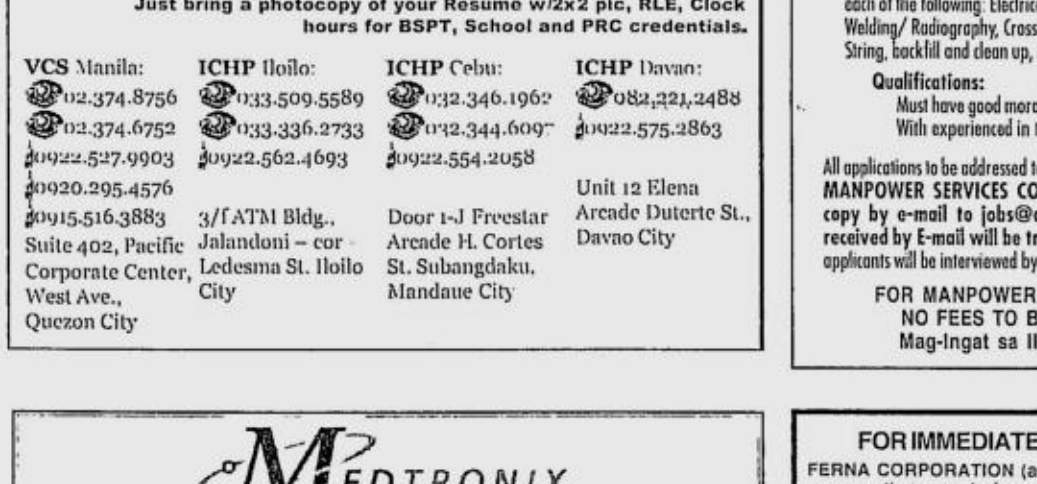
via email: **manilaconference@intermedplacement.com**
on or before November 04, 2006 (to qualify for the first screening)

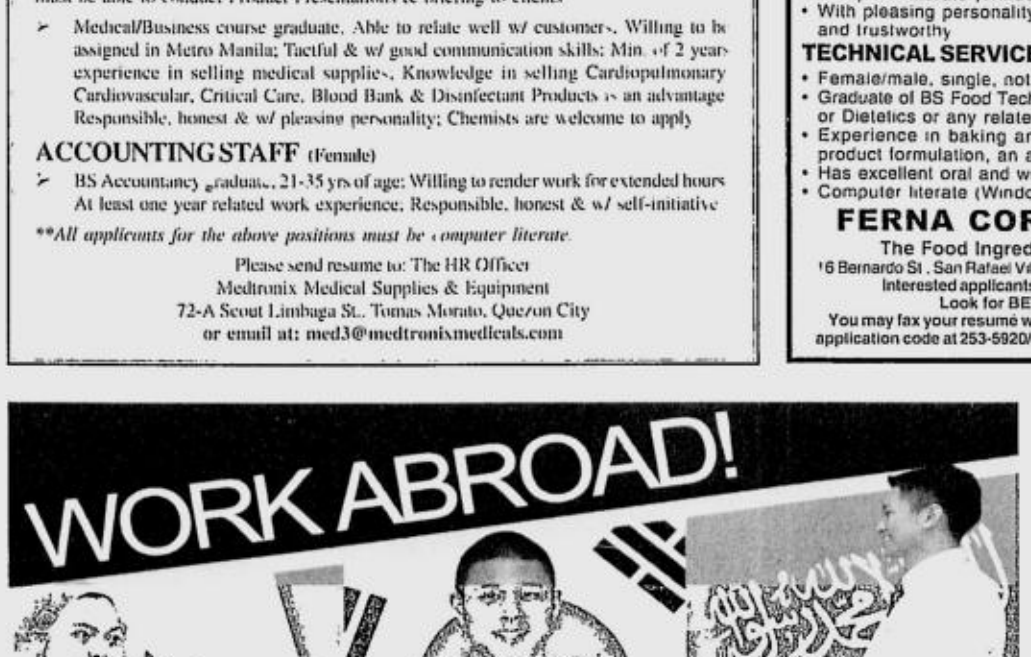
Schedule of Conference:
Day 1: (Nov. 18, Saturday)
12:30 - 4:00 PM: Registered Nurses (Light snacks included)
6:30 - 10:00 PM: Physical Therapists (dinner included)
Day 2: (Nov. 19, Sunday)
12:30 - 4:00 PM: Registered Nurses (Light snacks included)

Due to the limited slots available
Ony the first 200 (nurses) and 100 (PTs)
qualified applicants will be invited to attend
the conference where preliminary
interview/examination will be conducted.

in cooperation with:
Aguila Management
and Resources Corp.
(S1102 Goldhill Tower 5,
Annapolis St., San Juan, M.M.

For more information, visit:
www.intermedplacement.com





JOBCOMPACT

Get more exposure for your ad.

Advertise in JobMarket Compact.

Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

Inquirer Compact available in all key cities in Luzon.

For immediate deployment .....

CANADA – COOKS & HOTEL WORKERS

DIAMOND PERSONNEL INC. *POEA Reg. # 10097188*

- 21-45 years old
- can prepare Western foods & other dishes
- good English communication skills
- 6 mos. – 1 year work experience in reputable restaurants and hotels
- completed at least 72 units in College

MALAYSIA

ASIA PACIFIC INFORMATION SERVICES POEA Reg. # 10087347

EDI DEVELOPER / DESIGNER

- excellent knowledge in EDI standards, UNIX/Windows environment
- experience in architecting & designing of EDI transactions
- exposure to Rosetta Net, ANSI-X12, XML, ASCII & Java preferred

SPANISH SPEAKING SERVICE DESK ANALYST

- good communication skills in oral and written English & Spanish.
- Male or Female ; not over 40 years old

IRC GLOBAL SERVICES *POEA Reg. # 10091236*

MACHINIST

- Male, 21 – 35 years old
- experience in Precision Tooling Machine
- offhand experience in Lathe, Drilling, Tooling, Milling & CNC

JAPAN – PROGRAMMER / IT ENGINEERS

M.D. CORPORATION *POEA Reg. No. 10039235*

- must be familiar on any of the following programs: JAVA(J2EE), C/C++, NET(C#), ERP(SAP), CAD-CATIA V4, V5,CAE.
- Male or Female, below 35 years old
- Can speak and understand NIHONGGO (at least level 4 Proficiency)

Submit personally the ff. requirements fr. 10am – 6pm, Mon.-Fri.:

1. 2 sets of resume w/ detailed Job Description & 4pcs. 2x2 pictures
2. school records (diploma / Transcript of Records) & Employment Cert.
3. diskette / CDRW – saved resume in WORD format, scanned school records & employment certificates

STAR EXPRESS PLACEMENT INC.
POEA LICENSE NO.: POEA-001LB-041106-R
ENDRIGA Bldg. 2270 Taft Ave., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 5218438 / 5219343 to 44
Email Address : seppi@pldtdsl.net • Website : www.sepi-ph.com

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY, NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED
BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS

SUNWAY INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES, INC.
1019 Remedios St.,Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 4004888 / 5219956 / 5223884
POEA –186-LB-071603-R

ALMANA & PARTNERS W.L.L., Doha, Qatar (Reg. No. 10010536)
MERCHANDISERS • SALES PERSON (M/F) • SALES EXEC. SHOWROOM (M/F)
SALES EXEC. KEY ACCOUNT (M/F) – MBA graduate preferred • HVAC ENGR.
SALES EXEC. PROJECT (M/F) • ASST. SPARE PARTS SERVICE (M)
WELDER CUM FABRICATOR (M) • APPLIANCE TECH.
MARKETING EXEC.(M/F)

NATIONAL RADIATOR FACTORY (NATCO), Doha, Qatar (Reg. No.10043496)
SECRETARY (F) • WAREHOUSE SUPV. • SENIOR BUYER
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER • ACCOUNTANT/CREDIT
CONTROL & COLLECTION
LIGHT DRIVER – with GCC license up to 45 yrs.old, without GCC lic. age 25-35 yrs. old

GERMIN TRADING CO., Doha, Qatar (Reg. No.10010700)
DUCT FABRICATOR/INSTALLER • DRAFTSMAN / INTERIOR DESIGNER

HALA TRADING & CONT. CO. (HATCO) Doha, Qatar (Reg. No.10099542)
TRAILER DRIVERS – with GCC license • CAR MECHANICS – exp. in BMW and MERCEDES BENZ, knowledge in automatic transmission

UNITED EQUIPMENT RENTALS, L.L.C.,Doha, Qatar
ELECTROMECHANICAL TECH.

AL-OMEREIAH TRADING & CONT. CO.,Doha, Qatar (Reg. No.10083759)
H.E. OPERATOR • ESTIMATOR • CIVIL ENGR. • HEAVY EQUIP. MECHANIC
SURVEYOR • PLANT ELECTRICIAN • CO.COOK • LAB. TECH. FOR ASPHALT
QUALITY CONTROLLER • CONST. FOREMAN

INOX CO., Doha, Qatar
STAINLESS STEEL FABRICATOR – exp. in kitchen equipment

QATAR TECH. FOR ALUMINUM & STEEL CO., Doha, Qatar
FACTORY SUPERVISOR • ALUMINUM FABRICATOR
SHUTTERING CARPENTER

CLASSICAL PALACE, Doha, Qatar (Reg.No.43197)
MASTER ELECTRICIAN • ARTIST PAINTER

NAZIH TRADING CO. DUBAI, U.A.E. (Reg. No.10010536)
(Cosmetic Manufacturing Co.)
PRODUCTION MGR. • R&D MANAGER • R& D CHEMIST • Q.C. CHEMIST
MICROBIOLOGICAL CHEMIST • ACCOUNTANT (FACTORY)
COST ACCOUNTANT • MAINT. ENGR. • ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN

ELMACS CO., Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. (Reg. No.10063926)
CIVIL ENGR. – exp.in Plumbing works • MECHANICAL ENGR. – exp.in AC works
DRAFTSMAN – knowledge in 2D & 3D • DUCT FABRICATOR

MAISALGHANIM CO., Kuwait
PASTRY CHEF • ASST. PASTRY CHEF • HOT GRILL COOK • SALAD COOK
RUBY TUESDAY, Kuwait (Reg. No.10011769)
WAITRESS • WAITER • COOK (M/F)

ARFELONE INTERNATIONAL CO. FOR GEN. TRADING & CONT., Kuwait
ELEVATOR TECH. • ELECTRICAL ENGR. • MECHANICAL TECH.
ELECTRICAL TECH. • MECHANICAL ENGR.
ELECTROMECHANICAL TECH. • MAINT.TECH.

Interested applicants may apply personally with 2 complete sets of documents
FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY. NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED. MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITER.

JOB OPENINGS OVERSEAS

JARIR BOOKSTORE, KSA

SALESMEN -To qualify, candidates should present relevant sales experience in any of the following: computer, book, office equipment, department stores and specialized boutiques.

Various I.T. positions:
COMPUTER TECHNICIANS, RPG PROGRAMMERS, NETWORK ADMINISTRATORS, SYSTEMS ANALYSTS - Candidates should have relevant work experience. Knowledge of AS400 is an advantage.

KITE ARABIA, KSA

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS - with at least 5 years experience preferably in large office buildings, shopping malls, apartment complex, etc.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES - should have at least 3 years relavant experience.
CARPENTERS - experience in finishing carpentry is required.

AL HAQ GROUP OF COMPANIES, YEMEN

PROJECT MANAGER - experience in road construction management is required.
CIVIL ENGINEER - should have relevant experience in road/ horizontal construction.

Interested parties are invited to **APPLY IN PERSON.** Bring your resume, pictures & certificates of employment to the address below. Provincial applicants may send it thru FAX or E-mail.

S L SEARCH CORPORATION
SL SEARCH CORPORATION
POEA-038-LB-013102-R
3rd floor, The Lydia Bldg.
#39 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati City Tel.#s: 896-4632
FAX#: 896-0501E-mail: slsearch@slsearch.com
No fees to be collected For manpower pooling only.
Beware of illegal recruiters

PERIDOT INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES INC.

POEA Lic. No. 363-LB-072502-R ; Website: www.info.com.ph/~peridot1
Unit A 1845 Dian St. cor. Boyle St., Palanan, Makati Tel. 5527826/27; 8333170

AL AHLIYA EST. (Reg. 10050425) – DUBAI

CIVIL ENGINEER (STRUCTURAL) (02) SITE ENGINEER (02)
ARCHITECT (02) ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (02)]
Above categories must have exp. at least 7-10 yrs. in similar field; proficient in AutoCAD.
FEMALE ACCOUNTANT (02) – CPA; 7-10 yrs. exp; preferably in Manufacturing comp.
PRIVATE TUTOR (02) (NO PLACEMENT FEE) – grad. of Education major in English

FOR AL AHMADIAH CONTRACTING COMPANY-DUBAI

PROJECT MANAGERS (08) PLANNING MANAGER (04)
MEP COORDINATORS (04) PROJECT ENGINEER (07)
PLANNING ENGINEER (04) SITE ENGINEER (CIVIL) (08)
SITE ENGINEER (MEP) (08) QA/QC ENGINEER (03)
QUANTITY SURVEYOR (06) JUNIOR ENGINEER (10)
SAFETY OFFICERS (05) FABRICATION ENGINEER (03)
FOREMAN (18) AUTOCAD DRAFTSMAN (09)
INSURANCE ASSISTANT (02) DESIGN ENGINEER (04)
MAINTENANCE ENGINEER (03) FOREMAN (MAINTENANCE) (02)
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR (03) EQUIPMENT OPERATOR (06)
Above categories must have experience in the construction of high rise residential/ commercial/hotels/ hospital projects; having good leadership qualities, communication skills & computer skills.

FOR SPIELMANN'S DESIGN CONSULTING DUBAI

ARCHITECT (04) JR. ARCHITECT (06)
SR. DRAUGHTSMAN (04) DRAUGHSTMAN (06)
Must have at least 7-10 yrs. experience in the same field; not over 40 yrs. old.

FOR LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

SALESMAN (02) – Male/Female; experience in Chemicals or Manufacturing/Electronic Company; 20-25 yrs.old
SECRETARY (02) – Female with experience in customer service; with pleasing personality; fluent in English.
BOOKKEEPER (02) – Female; Accounting graduate; with or without experience
Pls. submit personally 3 sets of the ff.: Latest detailed resume' employment cert., passport, diploma, Training/seminar cert., NBI cert. and 4 pcs. 2x2 colored pictures & **diskette w/ your resume on or before 29 Oct. 2006.** FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY. NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED. BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS.

FMW Human Resources International

License No. POEA 072-LB-031403-R

Suite – 304 & 305 Pure House II Condominium
21 EDSA, Guadalupe, Makati City, Philippines
E-mail Address: fmwhri@pacific.net.ph
Tel. No. (0063-2) 882-4509/881064
Fax No. (0063-2) 8821333

OUR VARIOUS CLIENTS ARE URGENTLY IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

TABUK PHARMACEUTICAL MFG. CO.
(sister Company of Nour Communications Co.)
(W/POEA Registration No. 10062380), Dammam, KSA

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (2) - experience in switchgears, power transformers, electrical control systems
MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (2) - experience in Diesel Power Plants & Generators

EASTERN COAST FACTORY (AWAD AL SALEH CONTRACTING)
(W/POEA Reg. no. 10003287)

MACHINE OPERATORS (10) - Knowledge of Autocad or in CNC Machines Operation
INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIANS (5) - Experience in Polysterene/Plastic Mfg. company

RAJHI INTERNATIONAL (W/POEA Reg. 107011) Riyadh, KSA

AUTO MECHANICS (7)
AUTO DENTERS (3)
AUTO ELECTRICIANS (3)
*****Must have at least 3 years experience in the same positions*

AHMED AL FARAJ CONTRACTING; DAMMAM, KSA
(W/Saudi Aramco Contract no. 10005629)

MECHANICAL ENGINEER (1) - Licensed; with supervisory skills
CIVIL ENGINEER (1) - Licensed with experience in surveying & site supervision
ELECTRICIAN (1) - experience in electrical installation & instrumentation
LOADER & BULLDOZER OPERATOR (1) - with Driver's Lic. Restriction 8
LOADER AND BACKHOE OPERATOR (1) - with Driver's Lic. Restriction 8

Interested parties may apply personally with two (2) sets of Comprehensive CV's/ Resume with Detailed Job Descriptions w/ 4 pcs. 2x2 colored pictures, Diploma/ Transcript of Record, Certificate of Employment and Training/Seminar Certificates, Passport & NBI to the above addressed agency

ABSOLUTELY NO PLACEMENT FEE
FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY/BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS

We are urgently in need of: **Fast Job Offer**

250 DOMESTIC HELPERS

(For Hong Kong)

Registration No. 10067308 - Jenway Investments Limited
Registration No. 39144 - Tailormaid Employment Agency
Registration No. 10086316 - Eighty-8 Employment Agency

Salary: HK$3,400. / Php 22,000++

Qualifications:
- Female. 20-40 years old
- At least High School Graduate
- Able to speak & understand English

We offer the following:
- Free lodging for provincial applicants
- Fast job offer for those qualified applicants
- Good quality employer & low termination rate

CARETAKERS/ DOMESTIC HELPERS

We offer Financial Assistance

(For Taiwan)

Salary: NT$15,840. / Php 25,000++

Qualifications:
- Female. 20-35 years old
- At least 5'2" in height or above
- At least High School Graduate (For Domestic Helpers)
- Graduate of 6 mos. Caregiver course or Nursing/Midwifery course (for Nursing Homes)
- Able to speak and understand English
- Working experience not necessary

All interested applicants may apply at:

JENSEN MANPOWER INTERNATIONAL
Manila Office: 45-B Kabignayan St., Brgy. Talalon, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 781-8007 / 711-4417
Iloilo Office: Lucky Plaza Building, 2/F Rm. 206, 28H Quezon St., Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 338-3338
POEA License 479-LB-032504-R
Beware of Illegal Recruiters. No fees to be collected.

ORIENT HOLDINGS PHILS. INC.

POEA – 605-LB-061604-R
Unit 206-207 Phil. Nurses Association Bldg.,
1663 Benitez St., Malate Manila
Tel. # 524-5299 / Telefax # 524-5399

Our client in Kuwait are looking for the ff:

AL RAYA HEALTH CARE - Accre # - 10091127

STAFF NURSES
- Salary: KD 200
- 2 yrs. Exp. in General Nursing and Midwifery course
- Free Accommodation and Transportation

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS
- Salary: KD 200
- Diploma in B.P.T. 3 year's exp.
- Free Accommodation and Transportation

NEW MOWASAT HOSPITAL - Accre # - 10052083

STAFF NURSES
- Salary: 240 KD (plus accommodation & transportation)
- 3 yrs exp. and above

NEW DAR AL SHIFA HOSPITAL – Accre # 10086933

STAFF NURSES
- Salary: 230 KD + 20 KD food allowance
- Free accommodation & transportation
- 3 years exp and above

AL REDA TRADING – QATAR – Accre # 10096280

ENGINEERS
GYPSUM BOARD TECHNICIAN
ELECTRICIAN
SPRAY PAINTER

HEALTHFIRST MANAGEMENT - AUSTRALIA
- 10 Assistant Chef
- 10 Barmen
- 30 Waiters
- 30 Waitresses

Bring 2 sets of the ff: Resumé w/ detailed job description, School and PRC credentials, Cert of Employment, Cert of Seminars, 4 pcs. 2x2 white background pictures

For Manpower Pooling Only. No fees to be collected

ARAB PENINSULA MANPOWER SERVICES, CORP.
UNIT 105 DOÑA ADELA APARTMENT
2247 F.B. HARRISON ST., PASAY CITY
(BESIDE PETRON GASOLINE STATION. BETWEEN BUENDIA & LIBERTAD)
TEL. NOS. 834-2252 / 834-8756 FAX NO. 551-9597
Email: apms92@yahoo.com / apms92@hotmail.com
POEA LICENSE NO. 030-LB-013103-R Accreditation No. 72814-8

OUR PRESTIGIOUS PRINCIPAL, I-MAN COMPANY, IN RIYADH KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA IS IN NEED IMMEDIATELY TO HIRE THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS FOR GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, GSM & DELTA PROJECTS & RADIO BROADCASTING PROJECT. THIS IS FOR URGENT DEPLOYMENT, WITH READY VISA.

RADIO BROADCASTING PROJECTS

- **Radio Transmitter Engineers**
- **Electrical Engineers**
- **Protection Circuit Electrical Engineers**
- **HVAC Engineers**
- **Chemical Engineers**
- **Micro wave Engineers**
- **Mechanical Technicians**
- **A/C Technicians**
- **Electrical Technicians**
- **Water Treatment Technicians**

All must have maximum experience of 5 to 10 years on Diesel & Electrical Generating Plant, Electrical Control Panel and Protection Circuit Distribution Panel Board

AMBULANCE DELTA PROJECTS

(EXPERIENCE IN CAR ASSEMBLY PLANT)

- **Quality Inspectors Technicians**
- **Auto Electricians**
- **General Technicians**
- **Thermoforming Machine Operators**
- **Polyurethane Application**
- **Metal Forming Foreman**
- **FRP Laminator (Fiberglass)**
- **Auto Painters**

GSM PROJECT

(5 TO 10 YRS EXPERIENCE IN ERICSON & EXCHANGE POWER SUPPLY)

- **Power Technicians (A/C & D/C)**
- **Control Technicians**

Interested applicants are advised to bring personally their resume with 2 sets of Diploma, Transcript of Records, Employment Certificates, PRC ID, Board Rating, Board Certificate, Seminars / Trainings Certificates if any, and 2x2 pictures.

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5. MACHINE OPTR.
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OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS

What you should know about OWWA

THE OVERSEAS Workers Welfare Administration or OWWA is created under Republic Act No. 8042 or the "Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995" tasked primarily, as its name implies, to look after the welfare of overseas Filipino workers.

An attached agency of the Department of Labor and Employment, it administers the funds accummulated from the contribution of its members—overseas Filipino workers who give a $25 contribution upon enrollment. In turn, members are able to avail of the benefits which consist of insurance, health care, loan guarantee, education and training, social services and family welfare assistance. The following lists all the important information about OWWA and the services and benefits a member can get.

Membership

The OWWA is a membership institution. As such, its programs, projects and services are geared towards safeguarding and promoting the welfare and interests of its members.

For a US$25.00 membership contribution, an OWWA member is entitled to various benefits and services. Membership in OWWA may be obtained in two ways: a) by enrollment upon processing of contract at the POEA; and b) by voluntary registration of a would-be member at job-sites overseas.

The names of all OWWA members are maintained by the OWWA and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) in a database which is updated regularly. Members are issued an Official Receipt upon payment of contribution. They shall likewise be issued an OWWA e-Card.

OWWA membership, either through the compulsory or voluntary coverages, shall be effective upon payment of membership contribution, until expiration of the employment contract.

In case of voluntary members who register on-site membership shall not exceed two (2) years.

Membership shall be renewed upon payment of contribution on contract renewal/issuance of new contract. In the case of voluntary membership, coverage shall be renewed upon payment of contribution.

OWWA Services & Programs for Members

Insurance and Healthcare Benefits

In pursuance of its mandate, the OWWA delivers social insurance benefits, loan assistance, social services, and family welfare assistance subject to the qualification requirements and availability of OWWA funds.

All benefits and services are over and above the provisions of the employment contract, offer of employers, or the laws of the country where the OFW is.

A member is covered with the following insurances for the duration of his contract:

Life Insurance. A member is covered with life insurance for the duration of his employment contract. The coverage includes P100,000.00 for natural death and P200,000.00 for accidental death.

Disability and Dismemberment Benefits. A member is entitled to disability/dismemberment benefits as a rider provision of his life insurance as provided for in the impediment schedule contained in the Manual of Systems and Procedures. The coverage is within the range of P2,000.00 to P50,000.00.

Total Disability Benefit. In case of total permanent disability, a member shall be entitled to P100,000.00.

Burial Benefit. A burial benefit of P20,000.00 is provided in case of the member's death.

Loan Guarantee Fund. In compliance with Article III, Section 21 of RA 8042, the OWWA provides Pre-Departure Loan (PDL) and Family Assistance Loan (FAL), in coordination with government financing institutions (GFIs), in the amount of P100,000,000.00 as a revolving loan guarantee fund.

The loan shall not exceed P40,000.00. The PDL serves ready-to-leave newly hired OFWs whose employers or agents have already paid the compulsory membership contribution to OWWA. The loan is designed to assist members in their pre-departure needs such as payment of placement fees, clothing requirements, pocket money, and other pre-departure expenses.

The FAL is available for emergency and other family needs as endorsed by the member.

Social Services and Family Welfare Assistance

Repatriation Program. Consistent with the provisions of RA No. 8042, members are repatriated and provided with services necessary to facilitate repatriation.

Reintegration Program. A Reintegration Program is being implemented by the DOLE through OWWA in coordination with the LGUs and NGOs.

Community organizing, capability-building, and other social preparations are incorporated in this program. Livelihood loans are available to members subject to the policies formulated by the Board.

Workers Assistance and On-site Services

The OWWA sustains and maintains assistance to members in all its regional and overseas offices. Services include locating missing OFWs, providing information and guidance, developing materials of the Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars, conducting psycho-social counseling, conciliation services, medical and legal assistance, and outreach missions, among others.

On behalf of the OFW, the OWWA may provide appropriate representation with employers, agents, and host government authorities.

Skills-for-Employment Scholarship Program

The Skills-for-Employment Scholarship Program (SESP) is a scholarship program that the OWWA offers, in coordination with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), to land-based or sea-based OWWA member-OFWs or their beneficiaries/dependents.

A qualified applicant may avail of either a one-year technical or the six-month vocational course offered under the SESP, following the regular school year calendar.

Upon receipt of the scholarship voucher, the grantee may enroll in any TESDA-registered program. Program choices shall be supportive of the land- and sea-based skills requirements.

Scholarship Benefits. An SESP scholar benefits a financial assistance for tuition fee of P14,500.00 for a one-year Technician Program, or P7,250.00 for a six-month Operator Program.

The OWWA pays the amount directly to the TESDA-accredited training institution. If the tuition fee is more than the financial assistance, the scholar shall shoulder the difference. If less, the OWWA releases the difference to the scholar after the end of the program, upon the scholar's submission of the competency assessment and certification of course completion.

Seafarers' Upgrading Program

The OWWA's Seafarers Upgrading Program (SUP) is intended to provide OWWA seafarer-members job-related training in priority maritime courses identified by the Maritime Training Council (MTC).

It is designed to upgrade the knowledge, update the skills, and develop the expertise of Filipino seafarers in accordance with technological advancements and international maritime standards.

Program Benefit. Beneficiaries under the SUP receive from the OWWA financial assistance for training costs, ranging from a minimum of P1,200.00 to a maximum of P7,500.00. These amounts are inclusive of meal and transportation allowances in the case of trainees referred to the National Maritime Polytechnic (NMP).

Beneficiaries. Filipino seafarers who are active OWWA members may avail of the program. Beneficiaries may subsequently avail of the SUP after payment of additional three (3) membership contributions and if training is availed of within prescribed period.

OFW Groceria Project

Pursuant to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's commitment to the promotion and protection of the welfare and early integration of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), and in recognition of their significant contribution to Philippine society and economy, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), in coordination with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), had set into motion the OFW Reintegration Program, of which the OFW Groceria Project is an important component.

The OFW Groceria Project aims to improve the socio-economic situation of OFWs and their families by providing them livelihood and self-employment opportunities through the establishment of grocery stores. A thousand of such stores is envisioned nationwide.

The Project provides an interest-free loan assistance package extended in the form of merchandise goods worth P50,000.00 to a qualified OFW Family Circle (OFC) beneficiary.

Before the loan assistance package is given, the OWWA provides OFC members a series of continuing skills training courses to enhance their entrepreneurial and technical skills necessary in running and managing their stores.

OWWA-NLSF LDPO

The OWWA's Livelihood Development Program for OFWs (LDPO), implemented through the National Livelihood Support Fund (NLSF), is the economic component of the Comprehensive OFW Reintegration Program.

A joint OWWA-NLSF undertaking, the program provides entrepreneurial development services and credit facilities to OFWs and their families.

Qualified to avail of the benefits under OWWA-NLSF LDPO are the following:

OWWA member-OFWs and former member-OFWs; One (1) immediate family member per OFW, namely: Married OFW-spouse or children; Single OFW-parents/brother or sister who is at least 21 years old.

Tuloy-Aral Project

For nearly three decades, millions of Filipinos have worked and continue to work—overseas in search of a better life.

There are many success stories but there are equally distressful accounts of OFWs who are unable to preserve their gains from overseas employment. They are unable to provide for the daily needs of their families and could hardly send their children to earn basic education.

Tuloy-Aral Project aims to assist the children of the less fortunate former OFWs, as well as other very poor and needy children, so they would be able to continue their elementary and high-school education.

Education for Development Scholarship Program

The Education for Development Scholarship Program (EDSP) is a scholarship grant offered to qualified beneficiaries/dependents of OWWA member-OFWs who intend to enroll in any 4- to 5-year baccalaureate course.

It is given in the form of financial assistance amounting to P30,000 per semester. The OWWA pays the scholar's tuition directly to the school and releases the remaining amount upon the scholar's submission of his/her grades for a semester.

DOLE-OWWA-Microsoft Tulay Project

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the OWWA have partnered with computer software giant Microsoft, through Microsoft Philippines, in implementing the Tulay, a project which provides IT training and access to technology that will enable OFW families to communicate via the Internet.

Tulay is part of Microsoft's Unlimited Potential (UP), a global initiative focused on providing technology skills for underserved individuals. Recipients of UP grants are public centers where people can gain IT skills and training to help themselves and their communities.

Community Technology Learning Centers. The OWWA has received a grant of computer equipment for the establishment of tulay Community Technology Learning Centers in its head office in Manila, Regional Office in Cebu, and in its Filipino Workers Resource Center in different parts of the world.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
OWWA Center Building,
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SMS: 0917-TXT-OWWA
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Ni-ko 06

May PhilHealth refund ka pa ba?
Alamin sa tulong ng Benefit Payment Notice o BPN!
Ang BPN ay talaan ng aktwal na gastos sa ospital at bayarin sa duktor habang kayo ay nasa ospital. Ipinakikita rito ang kabuuang benepisyong inyong dapat nakamit mula sa PhilHealth, sa pamamagitan ng automatic deduction bago kayo na-discharge. Ang BPN ay ipinadadala sa miyembro sa pamamagitan ng koreo.
- Ito ang kabuuang singil ng ospital para sa confinement ng miyembro
- Ito ang halaga ng benepisyong ibinayad ng PhilHealth sa miyembro
- Kung saan/kanino mapupunta ang bayad ng PhilHealth
- Kabuuang PhilHealth benefits para sa hospital charges. Ito ay mapupunta sa ospital kung ang halagang ito ay ibinawas sa kabuuang bill ng miyembro
- Kabuuang PhilHealth benefits para sa professional fees ng duktor. Ito ay mapupunta sa duktor kung ito ay ibinawas sa singil para sa PF
- Kabuuang benepisyong binayaran ng PhilHealth para sa miyembro
Kung ang kabuuang PhilHealth deductions mo na nasa BPN ay mas mataas kaysa sa ibinawas ng ospital/duktor, maaari mo pa ring i-claim ang balanse nito. Ipakita lamang ang inyong BPN, Statement of Account at mga resibo ng pinagbayaran sa billing section ng ospital/duktor para sa kaukulang refund.
Para sa karagdagang katanungan, makipag-ugnayan sa PhilHealth sa 637-7680 and 637-6449 o di kaya'y sa pinakamalapit na tanggapan ng PhilHealth sa inyong lugar.
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UNITY IN ACTION

"In behalf of President Arroyo, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our partners who never wavered in their assistance to bring home our fellow Filipinos who were trapped in war-torn Lebanon. With their help, we were able to successfully bring home 6,275 OFWs to unite with their families.

To this day we continue to repatriate those who wish to come home."

Arturo D. Brion
Secretary
Department of Labor & Employment

DOLE · IOM · TESDA · DOH · DSWD · DFA · OWWA

Globe Kababayan · PAMADEL · Unilever · SMART

'Work is more than employment, it is what one does for a living'

(Edited keynote address of Rep. Teddy Casiño [Bayan Muna] during the opening ceremonies of the STI Global Career Connections 2006 last Sept. 20 at the SM Mega Mall Megatrade Hall)

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD like to commend STI for organizing this job fair. Once again, STI has gone one step further for their students not only by providing them with skills and knowledge to become a better person but also by helping them find employment. And the fact that they are doing this not only for their own students but students from other schools as well shows their genuine concern for our people.

Two to tango

Today you are seeking work from potential employers. But it takes two to tango. They are also seeking people who will be making money for them. So the question is, who really needs who? Remember that without you and others like you, these companies can never make the money they're making now. So when you apply for a job, don't treat yourself as a beggar asking for alms from your future employer.

Work is more than employment. It is what one does for a living.

Employment is only a formal manifestation of work. In the Philippines, only 51 percent of employed workers are salary and wage earners. The rest are unpaid family workers or self-employed.

We should not treat work as an end in itself. We should work to live, not live to work.

What do I mean? Work, in its most profound meaning, is a means to fulfill our humanity. It is one integral factor in making us human beings. A person who does nothing is a dead person. A person who simply eats and drinks is no different from a pet. On the other hand, a person who does nothing but work, *'yung* CR l*ang ang pahinga*, is no different from a slave or a machine.

Fruits of labor

My point is, work should not make us slaves but free men and women. Work should not degrade us but uplift us. This is important because most often, the sole measure of one's work is one's income or the company's profit margin.

People have a right not only to work but more importantly, to enjoy the fruits of their labor. This is what the Constitution, the highest law of the land, mandates.

In order to provide enough decent work and employment, there should be a comprehensive development of a sustainable, self-reliant and robust Filipino eco-nomy. The Philippines should not only be a country of landless farmers and jobless workers—in other words, a source of cheap, quality, English-speaking workers. It should be, in itself, a country that

CASIÑO

can feed itself and provide products and services for its own people.

Dumping ground

This is where, I think, government and to a certain extent the private sector has failed. Our economic policies are flawed and have resulted in massive poverty, unemployment and national maldevelopment. For five decades, we have been a dumping ground for excess goods and capital and a source of cheap labor for the industrialized countries like the US, Japan and the European Union.

For the last three decades, we have been exporting our own people. While I have nothing against OFWs, it pains me that all we see are their remittances. Just think, if they bring in $12 to $15 billion a year in salaries, imagine how much money they make for their foreign employers.

Push measures

Probably three, four, five times that amount. Now imagine if they were working here, making money for their own country. We'd be rich.

It is for these reasons that Bayan Muna has always strived to push for measures and policies, in and outside Congress, that will generate the kind of employment that not only respects the people's right to work, but ensures a sustainable, self-reliant and robust Filipino economy.

In particular, we have been pushing for the P125 wage hike bill, changes in the labor code vs anti-contractualization and for gender-sensitive work environment. We have advocated for the protection and promotion of Filipino companies, especially SMEs that provide the most work in the face of globalization. For the long-term, we have been pushing for a genuine agrarian reform and national industrialization policy that is the bedrock of a strong, sustainable and self-reliant economy.

I hope that as you find employment, your idealism remains and together, we can work for that dream for a better, brighter Philippines. Thank you.

Mission order

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

IN MILITARY PARLANCE, WE COULD SAY THAT every worker receives a "mission order"—the task and duty he has to accomplish or a particular quota he has to meet after a certain period assigned to him. As a soldier needs to keep the mission order always on his head, like a blinking yellow light, and be alert and ever ready to respond, the worker is expected to be no less vigilant. Awareness of the mission and its purpose and importance would certainly guide either soldier or worker to effectively carry it out and thereby find meaning in their profession or work.

Yet, there is a greater "mission order" which everyone, even those in the workplace, should also be aware of. It is that given by our Creator who designed us to be in His "image and likeness" and has sent His only Son Jesus not to be served but "to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." Doing one's work or busying oneself with the assigned tasks should not necessarily distract the worker from the realization of his basic and fundamental mission; however, the workplace could provide him and everyone the "battle field," the place and opportunity to execute the God-given mission by proclaiming in words when occasions arise, Christ's teachings or those of His Church or even those sound principles adhered to by other faiths, or in deeds by simply performing one's work and duties in the spirit of love and service for the company he works for and for the people who would benefit from his work.

When everyone would try to perform his "mission order" to become like Christ and to serve others through his work, then perhaps, there would no longer be the need for the Church to celebrate World Mission Sunday, as everyone would be a "missionary." (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Are you a fake martyr?

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THIS THING ABOUT SERVING AND BEING SERVED reminds me of certain "service-freaks." Glenda is an example. She is such a useful person to have around in the office. Besides being a hard worker, she likes to serve during after-work hours, organizing employees' sports fests, coordinating fund-raising events, operating the audio-visual gadgets at seminars, etc. Glenda's case reminds me of what Winston Churchill once said—"The test of real character is what a person does when he is tired."—because when she gets tired her true colors show. She nags, throws a tantrum, gets paranoid and complains that she's the only one working. This shows that Glenda's "service" is in reality self-serving, a desire for applause. If you see yourself in Glenda, snap out of it or you'll forever be in misery. Glenda is fooling herself, ego-tripping on others in order to feel useful and needed. That's not the kind of service Jesus asks of us.

Going out of your way to serve is fine, as long as it's genuine service. Don't "charge" for your "extra-curricular services"; invest only what you're willing to lose of your time, energy or commitment. Then you will not grumble when people are ungrateful or uncooperative. Beyond doing your best to help and serve out of the purest of your intentions, gracefully acknowledge your limitations. When you've reached your limit, do not pretend to be more generous than you really are—say no. You won't win heaven by being a fake martyr, but no one will condemn you for being honest.

If others equate your unavailability with lack of charity, then let it be. Humbly own up to your inability to help further, trusting that Jesus is preparing a more propitious time for you to serve His way. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

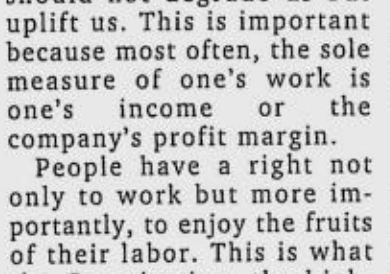
ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel. Mk 10: 35-45

For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

What makes for corporate identity?

By Tita Datu Puangco



MY FAMILY OWNS A CHAIN of drugstores and we are a strong player in two regions in Luzon. As you know the distribution of medicine is a virtual monopoly of two to three big players. I want to protect the progress and growth we have achieved in our area from the inroads of the big players. I noticed that the big players before long will look at our area for expansion.

I think a way to protect our turf is through a corporate identity campaign so that our drugstore becomes a brand and a byword in the industry. I want to start thinking about this. Please give me some ideas on corporate identity. Many thanks.

Anxious Drugstore Owner

This is an era where to stand out in the crowd one has to possess a unique corporate identity or persona that stands out in the face of competition. One of the biggest obstacles in this era of infinite choices is invisibility. Visibility means being seen by your potential customer or market. It is also important that the company establishes credibility and equity in the image it wants to project.

Oscar Wilde says "It is only shallow people who do not judge by appearances. The true mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible." I may not completely agree with the quotation but we all know the value of packaging our message in ways that the image becomes clear and unmistakable.

Deek Lee Armstrong and Kam Wai Yu in their book, "The Persona Principle" cite some of the trends that encourage us to build corporate image and identity.

One is the age of substance and responsibility. Companies have to demonstrate substance and responsibility. Then, the trend towards small and home businesses—the customer has to be able to establish rapport with the brand and not sound like impersonal, big business. Three, the image has to create impact to stand above the advertising noise and confusion. Fourth, people are now consistently concerned about value and quality, thus the avoidance of making promises one can not keep. Finally, this is the age of self-help where the customer wishes to have some control over the product without help from external interventions.

What are the six keys to a successful corporate identity or persona? One is the image must be anchored in truth. Often, successful companies have several truths or "virtues." One can dissipate the message if one tries to declare several truths, instead of the core truth. The second is credibility. The image you project has face-value credibility. Credibility is the ability to be believed. People have to believe your claims. Then your image must be unique and differentiating. Customize the image of your business based on your unique selling

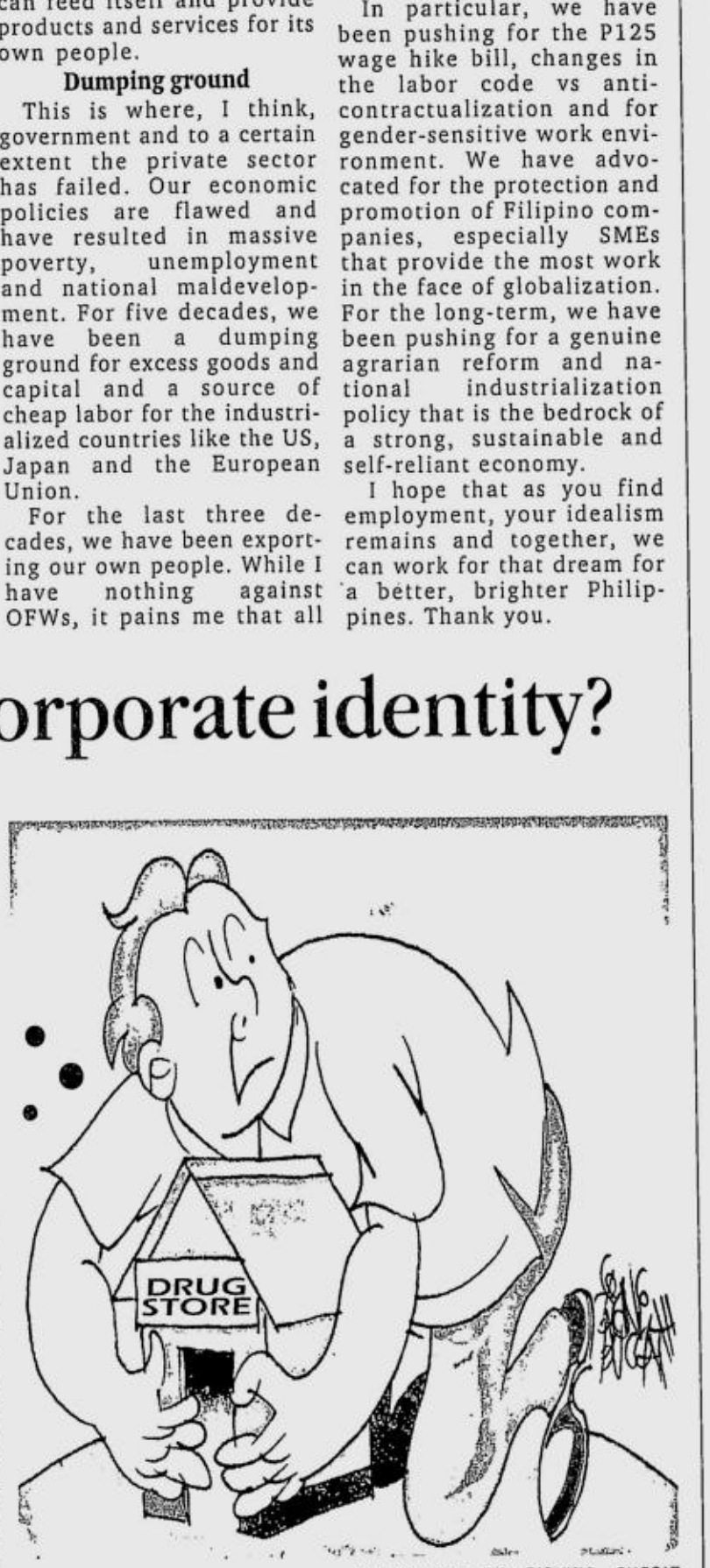


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

proposition. The other key is to never stop teaching and educating your audience with your image. The corporate persona must be based on values that your target market can empathize with.

Show only the aspects of your image that support your identity. Once you have established your corporate identity guidelines, make sure they are considered a set of rules that must be respected in the medium as well as in the long term. As Benjamin Disraeli states, "the secret of success is constancy of purpose."

Now what does it take to possess brand leadership?. The main distinction is the company values long-term image. A successful brand happens when the users readily identify themselves as a club or as a community of users. The client may co-own the company but its customers co-own the brand.

What are the common characteristics of brand leaders? They invented or refined their product to be different from a similar product. They made credible claims. They treated their corporate identity as inherent in the company culture. They also allow the corporate identity to evolve and possess something like a distinct living identity.

(The author is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company. Feedback at advice@ancillaedc.com.ph, or fax 892-2902.)

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- Can work with minimal supervision

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QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in Computer Engineering or Electronics and Communications Engineering
- 1 to 2 years experience in Networking and System Administration
- Must have knowledge of Linux, Windows 2000/2003 Operating Systems Administration and Development, Citrix Administration, concepts in computer networking, e-mail and internet administration

DIVISION SECRETARY

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in Accounting or Business course
- 1 year experience as secretary
- Must have secretarial and administrative skills
- Proficient in oral & written communication
- Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint

ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in Accounting
- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in Accounts receivables and/or Credit and collection work
- Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Can work under pressure and with minimum supervision

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

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How to optimize tax savings and deductions

TAX ISSUES ARE OFTEN COMPLEX AND SOMEtimes problematic for corporations, SMEs, or individual taxpayers. Whether due to oversight, lack of knowledge or malicious intent, a good number of taxpayers make underpayments (or overpayments) or don't pay at all, resulting in additional costs that could have been avoided if proper tax payments had been made in the first place. Without proper estate planning, for instance, taxes could eat up the worth of assets and properties to be inherited and turn would-be heirs into paupers. On the other hand, a company can make use of a tax saving technique like NOLCO (Net Operating Loss Carry Over) in the process of acquiring another company.

In a business environment that contains a high tax regime (a recent study by the World Bank found that businesses in the Philippines are subject to the highest combined tax rates in Asia), a good tax program can spell the difference between profit and loss. Proper tax planning results in savings that can be plowed back into the business and used as additional capital for growth and expansion. A good tax program includes techniques like income minimization, proper structuring of transactions, use of holding companies, and transfer pricing mechanisms. Other issues to be considered are tax treaties; tax benefits under special laws (like SPAV); and tax implications of frameworks like IAS and e-commerce. The bottomline is that an effective tax program can give individuals savings of hundreds of thousands of pesos or can save millions—even billions—of pesos in the life cycle of a business entity. "A good tax program means planning for the best so you can avoid the worst," states Atty. Liwayway Chato-Vinzons, former BIR commissioner.

For the first time, the public will get a chance to listen to and learn from authorities in the field of taxation who will share a wealth of knowledge and experience on how to save on taxes the RIGHT and LEGAL WAY. The Center for Global Best Practices (842-7148 & 59 or www.cgbp.org) is holding a 2-day seminar entitled, "*Optimizing Tax Savings and Deductions*" on November 16 & 17, 2006 at The Peninsula Manila. This pioneering program, which is also CPE-accredited, will feature expert speakers who are highly-regarded and well-respected in their fields of practice. Atty. Rosario S. Bernaldo is a CPA-lawyer who has had extensive experience in tax planning and tax minimization strategies, and has successfully structured pioneering tax programs for numerous small and large taxpayers. She spent many years working with some of the country's biggest audit firms, and is currently managing partner of her own medium-sized law and accounting firms. Another speaker will be former BIR commissioner Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, who also has the distinction of being the second longest-serving and, so far, the only female commissioner in the history of the BIR. The seminar will also feature Atty. Nelson Aspe, who is currently BIR regional director of Revenue District No 8 covering the cities of Makati, Taguig, Pasay, Paranaque, Las Pinas, and Muntinlupa.

RP calls on UN to promote rights of migrants, OFWs

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY Arturo D. Brion has called on members of the United Nations (UN) to adopt measures that would effectively implement existing legal instruments affecting migration, especially the protection of the rights of migrant workers, including the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Addressing the UN General Assembly's recent High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in New York City, Brion stressed the principled foundations in ensuring the smooth, safe, and orderly flow of migration.

"One of these principles should be the protection of the human rights of individuals," he said. "Only with such foundation, cemented by the principles of fairness and equity, can governments maximize the productive capacity of individuals, and earn for themselves the full development effects of migration."

The Labor Chief shared the Philippine legal bases and model on global protection and management of the deployment of OFWs.

Brion told the UN that the Philippines has evolved contract migration into an endeavor characterized by protection for the OFWs, the families they leave behind, and concern for the receiving countries hosting our workers.

"It is characterized, firstly, by protection for the worker by providing regulation for the minimum terms for Filipino overseas work; for the regulation of the process of overseas deployment; for stiff penalties for illegal recruiters, as well as legal protection for victims of illegal recruitment; and for on-site protection through our embassies, consulates, and Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLOs)," he said.

"Furthermore, the law requires the use of orientation seminars for workers to fully inform migrants and ensure their adaptation to the host countries' culture and norms," Brion said.

"As a last measure of protection, we [implement] the reintegration programs for returning workers to give them the chance to readjust upon their return, and enjoy the fruits of their foreign labor to the fullest," he added.

Brion expressed the hope that the momentum generated by the UN high level dialogue would lead to the establishment of a forum and enhanced cooperation among government, the civil society, and all stakeholders on migration and its vast development potentials.

He thanked UN Secretary General Kofi Annan for making possible the dialogue through the UN's comprehensive report on International Migration and Development.

At the same time, he conveyed the Philippines' appreciation to the president of the 61st UN General Assembly, Her Excellency Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa of Bahrain, a major host country of OFWs, for facilitating the vital global dialogue on migration.

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How to catch company thieves

CITIZEN TRUTH VERIFIER ACADEMY INC, A subsidiary of Truth Verifier Systems, Inc. (TVSI), the leading detective agency in the country and was recently awarded as the "Outstanding Private Detective Agency of the Year" by the Philippine National Police, will hold its signature and original seminar entitled "How to Catch Company Thieves" on Nov. 7, from 8 AM to 5 PM at the Republic Flour Mills (RFM) Auditorium in Pioneer Street corner Sheridan Street, Mandaluyong City.

The seminar aims to help companies increase employee productivity levels by reducing, if not eliminating unnecessary losses due to unmonitored fraud, internal theft and other illegal activities.

The topics cover How Graft and Corruption Hurt Us, Psychology and Physiology of Lying, Internal and External Fraud Schemes, Whistleblower Hotline Assistance, Computerized Lie Detection (Polygraph), Computer Forensic Investigation and Legal Aspects of Fraud Investigation.

It features prominent speakers from various fields of expertise which include Luis L. Victor, former Court of Appeals Justice; P/Maj. Gen. Pantaleon G. Dumlao, former PNP Deputy Director General; Lawyer Sofronio B. Ursal, former COA Commissioner; Lawyer Egberto Q. Singzon, former HR Manager of Abbot Laboratories; Dr. Annabellee C. Singzon, former HR Manager of MERALCO; Mr. Dexter D. Laggui, President and CEO of ABE Laggui & Associates; and Capt. Conrado G. Dumlao, President of TVSI.

For queries, you may get in touch with Donna or Marietta at Tel. Nos. 635-5929 or 635-5985, Fax No. 634-7569 or E-mail us at ctvai@truthverifier.com.

IIPs awarded during PMAP 520th GMM

THE RECOGNITION CEREMONIES for the privileged batch of Philippine companies who achieved the Investors in People (IIP) Certification will be held on the occasion of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) 520th General Membership Meeting (GMM) on Oct. 25, 12:00-2:00 pm, Garden Halls, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City.

PMAP will present the Plaque of Recognition to Asian Eye Institute, Figaro Coffee Systems Inc., First Electro Dynamics Corporation, First Philippine Industrial Corporation, Guaranfood Manufacturing, HBC Inc., MMLDC Foundation Inc., PESTCON Management and General Services Corporation, Philippine Electric Corporation, and Q2 Search Inc. (HR Solution).

Gerardo A. Plana, PMAP Executive Director and IIP Project Team Leader, said "PMAP congratulates the above batch of Philippine companies for successfully passing the IIP assessment. Gaining this certification puts these organizations among the pioneers in the Philippines to meet the Investors in People Standard."

Five of the recipients of the Investors in People Certification are members of the Lopez Group of Companies. And to talk on the topic "Excellence in People Management," Mr. Manuel L. Lopez, Manila Electric Company's President and CEO and Lopez Group of Companies Top Executive, will be the PMAP 520th GMM keynote speaker.

IIP is an international quality standard focused on people aimed at improving business performance. It is an international HR quality benchmark to help organizations meet their aims and objectives through effective people management and development practices. IIP Standard is based on research and best practice in people management, which was established in the UK in 1991 in partnership with leading national business, personnel, professional and employee organizations. It was launched in the international arena since 1998.

Investors in People Certification was officially launched in the Philippines when IIP United Kingdom (UK) granted IIP pilot license to PMAP in May 2006. This significant HR management and development initiative started with the joint collaboration of PMAP, IIPUK, and EU Asia-Invest on the IIP Project in 2005. Through the IIP Project, 10 Philippine small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have been granted subsidy for its journey to obtain the Investors in People Certification. The IIPUK International Recognition Panel has recently awarded the Investors in People status to the above-mentioned companies.

DOLE notes steady growth in global OFW deployment, dollar remittances

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR and Employment (DOLE) today said that the total global deployment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) increased by 5.2 percent (+41,556) from 802,478 in the same period last year, to 844,034 between Jan. 1 and Oct. 9, 2006.

A report reaching Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D.Brion indicated that both the number of land-based OFWs deployed, as well as overseas Filipino seafarers, have continued to register a bright global growth pace during the period.

Brion was apprised by the DOLE's Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) that the global deployment of skilled, land-based OFWs grew by 5.2 percent (+31,989) to 645,167 from Jan. 1 to Oct. 9, 2006, compared to 613,178 in the same period last year.

During the same period, the deployment of overseas Filipino seafarers also rose by 5.1 percent (+9,567) to 198,867, from 189,300 previously.

Brion, meanwhile, cited a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) report indicating that the global growth in OFW deployment has been accompanied by a robust growth in total OFW remittances to the Philippines.

Brion said that BSP figures show that total OFW remittances increased by 15.3 percent to US$8.10 billion from January to August 2006 over the comparable period last year.

The Labor Chief said that, "on the average, the OFWs have been remitting a total figure reaching US$1-billion monthly in the first eight months of 2006."

The BSP indicated that both land- and sea-based OFW remittances are exhibiting robust growth alongside the steady rise in global deployment as the year 2006 progresses.

JOB Market OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT EXPO 2006

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Company profiles

From Page 1

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SL Search Corp was established in December 1987 by a group of SEARCH practitioners who specialize in overseas placement. It services various clients engaged in different industries in the Middle East, USA, Asean countries and others. It has clientele in fields such as hotel, IT, telco, manufacturing, marketing, trading, retail and other service-oriented organizations. It takes responsibility in presenting to clients relevant information that will help in their hiring decision. It defines its job in a very simple way: matching the right candidates to the right companies.

Arab Peninsula Manpower Services Corp.
Arab Peninsula Manpower Services Corp. is a service provider engaged in the business of recruiting highly professional workers both skilled and unskilled for hospital, radio broadcasting projects, Global Satellite Mobile (GSM), Saudi Telecom Communication (STC) and Delta Automotive Manufacturing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Nov. 19, 1992, as well as the Department of Trade and Industries and a member of PASEI and OPAP.

Humania International Inc.
Humania International Inc. was established in June 1997 by experienced individuals led by Agapita D. Silava who had earned her spurs at the FindStaff Placement Services Inc., one of the very first recruitment agencies in the Philippines. It even predates the establishment of the Philippine Overseas and Employment Administration. It was conceived in order to give recruitment and human face and caring touch to distinguish it from the usual impersonal, business-like and production-line style recruitment.

Philippine Health Insurance Corp.
Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (Philhealth) was established on Feb. 14, 1995. It is a premiere government corporation that ensures a sustainable, affordable and progressive social health insurance which endeavors to influence the delivery of accessible quality health care for all Filipinos. As a financial intermediary, PhilHealth shall continuously evolve a sustainable National Health Insurance Program that shall leads towards universal coverage; ensure better benefits for its members at affordable premiums; establish close coordination with its clients through a strong partnership with all stakeholders; and provide effective internal information and management systems to influence the delivery of quality health care services. It is a member of the Philippine Social Security Association, Asean Social Security Association and the National Social Security Association.

Alabang Fortune-8 Global School Inc.
Alabang Fortune-8 Global School Inc. envisions Filipinos becoming more competitive in line with seeking career destination inside and outside the Philippines. It challenges individuals on becoming more competitive jobseekers by giving them quality Korean language course they will need in making wise career choices. It offers a Comprehensive Korean Language and Basic Korean Language courses for those planning to work in Korea.

Jensen Manpower International
Jensen Manpower International is a licensed Philippine-based overseas recruitment and placement agency established in 2000. It offers recruitment, processing, deployment and post deployment services. It aims to provide foreign clients with Filipinos who have skills and strong determination to excel in their endeavors. Jensen is able to ensure meaningful and fruitful employment for fellow Filipinos and at the same time, assist foreign employers in attaining business goals especially now in the globalization era.

Stateland Inc.
Stateland Inc. is one of the leaders in property development and real estate innovation. For almost three decades, it has developed expertise on the real estate business—from conceptualization to development, towards financing and marketing of high-quality real estate products and services. It aims for constant growth and diversification in varied levels of real estate projects catering to the low, middle and high-income markets. It is one of the more active participants in the shelter program of the government pioneering in areas with potential growth and conducive economic development. It will remain as a dominant force in the industry with its continued expansion covering a wide range of products and services for the total satisfaction of its valued clients. It remains committed in supporting the government in its flagship project of providing housing to the Filipino people.

EDI Staffbuilders International Inc.
EDI Staffbuilders International Inc. is a pioneering overseas recruitment firm in the Philippines. Since 1979, EDI-SBII has recruited thousands of Filipino personnel at all levels—executive, professional, highly technical, skilled and operative—in some of the biggest and most prestigious companies such as Lucent, Bechtel in the Middle East and the Pacific Rim. Its market coverage spans the Asia Pacific, Africa and the United States. It is a recipient of the POEA Hall of Fame Award, Award of Distinction, Top Performer Award and Award of Excellence.

Globerec Manpower Services Inc.
Globerec Manpower Services Inc. is a recruitment agency established in 1999. Since its inception, it has been servicing and satisfying its international clients' manpower needs. Its policy is to provide excellent service and high standard of performance. Its management and staff members strive to find competent candidates who are most suitable to fit the position and who are motivated to execute and deliver quality work. It is proud of its achievement record in the recruitment business and with its record in the POEA and the Saudi Embassy.

Businesswise International Resources Inc.
Businesswise International Resources Inc. was established in 1992 to engage in the recruitment and placement of Filipino workers for both local and overseas employment. It is pursuing the recruitment and placement of engineers, teachers, nurses, architects, IT and other professionals, in addition to skilled and semi-skilled workers. It places great emphasis on the selection and pooling of excellent performers to meet its clients' requirements. It reaches applicants both locally and overseas as they are informed of existing vacancies through its website http://businesswise.com.ph, online and also thru published advertisements. Continuing negotiations with prospective principals in Asia and the Middle East guarantee a steady and constant supply of job opportunities for Filipino workers through its facilities.

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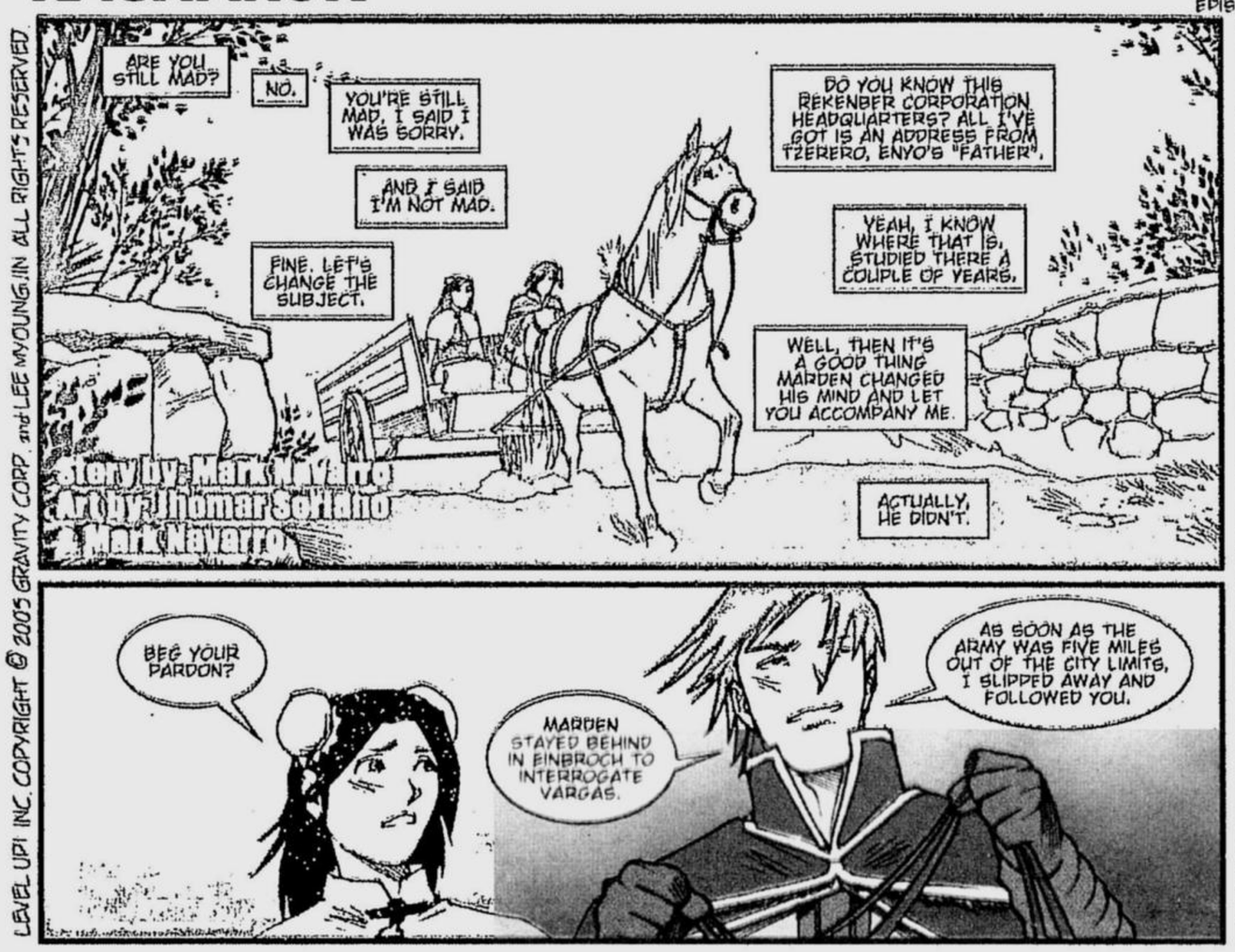

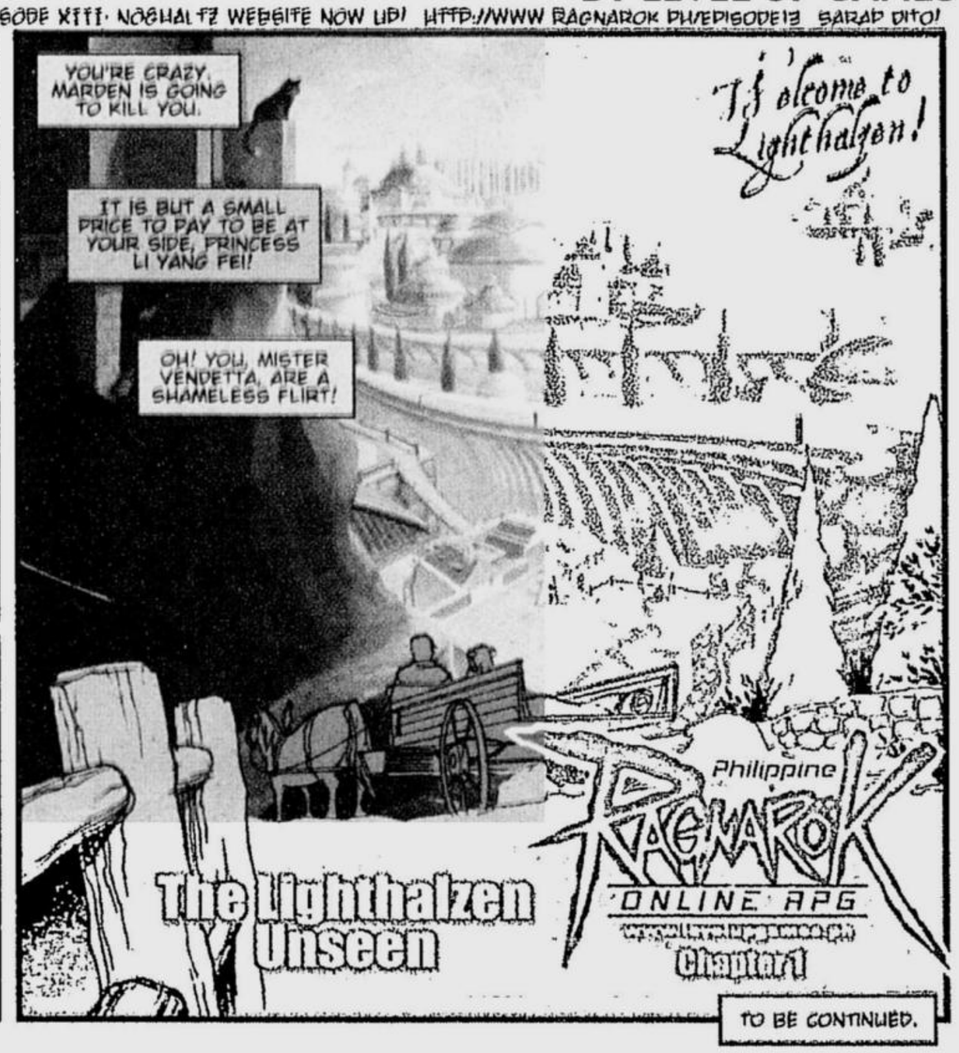

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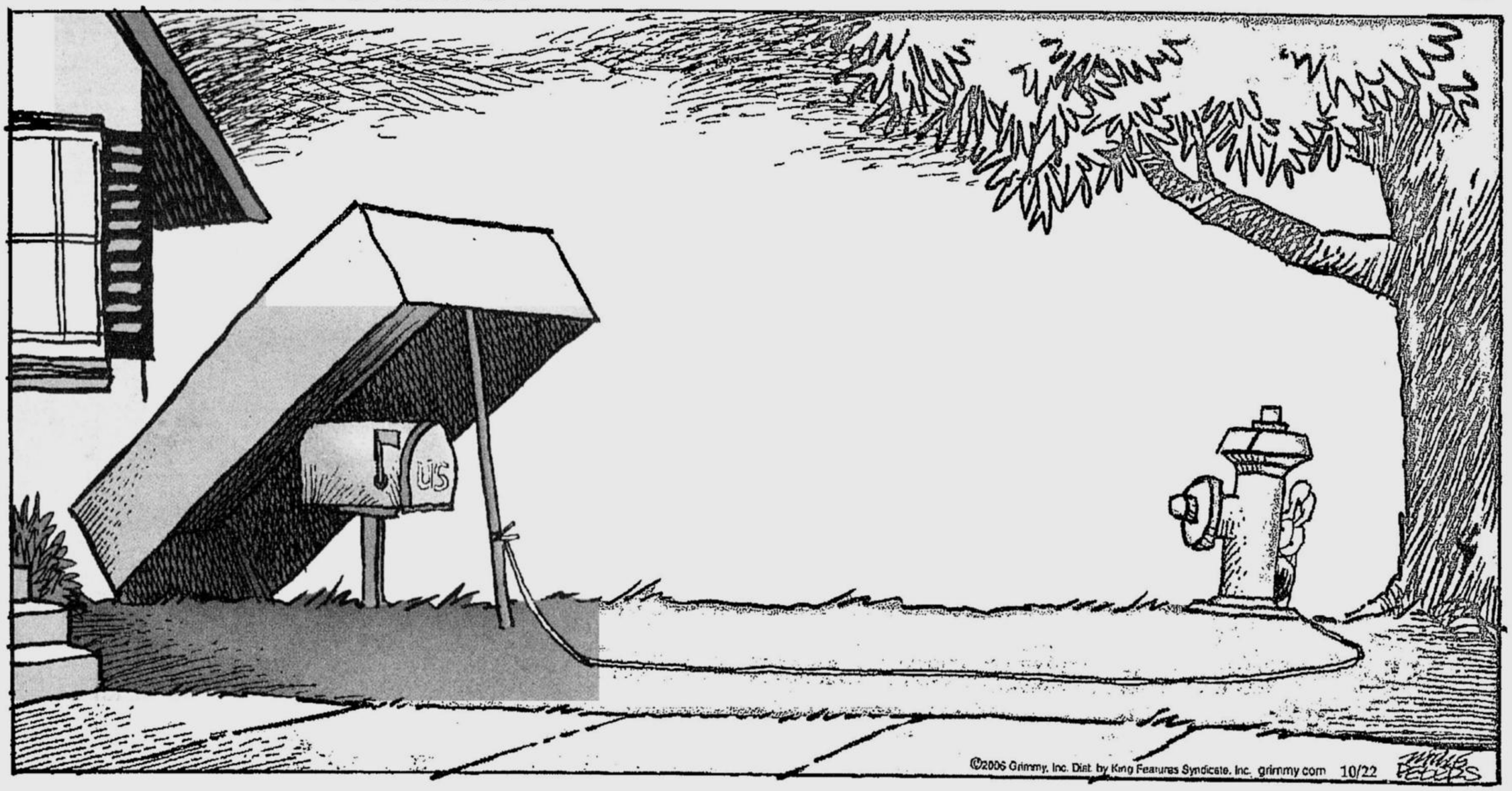

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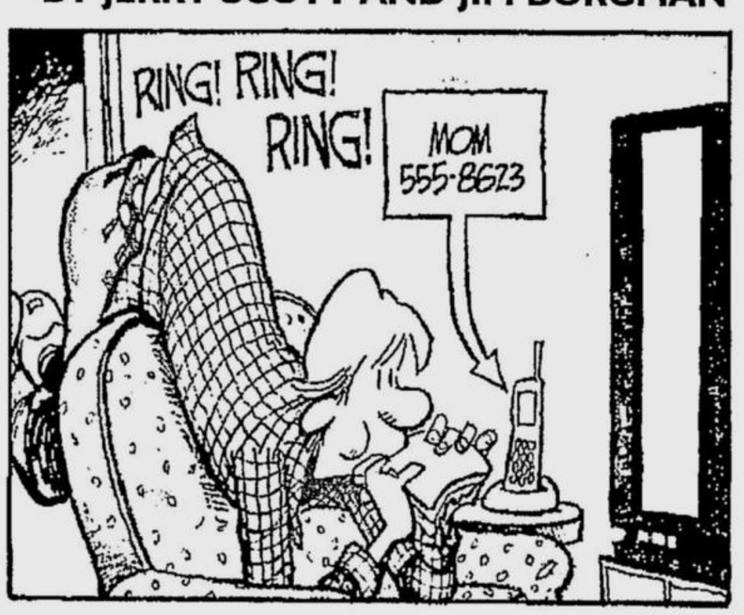

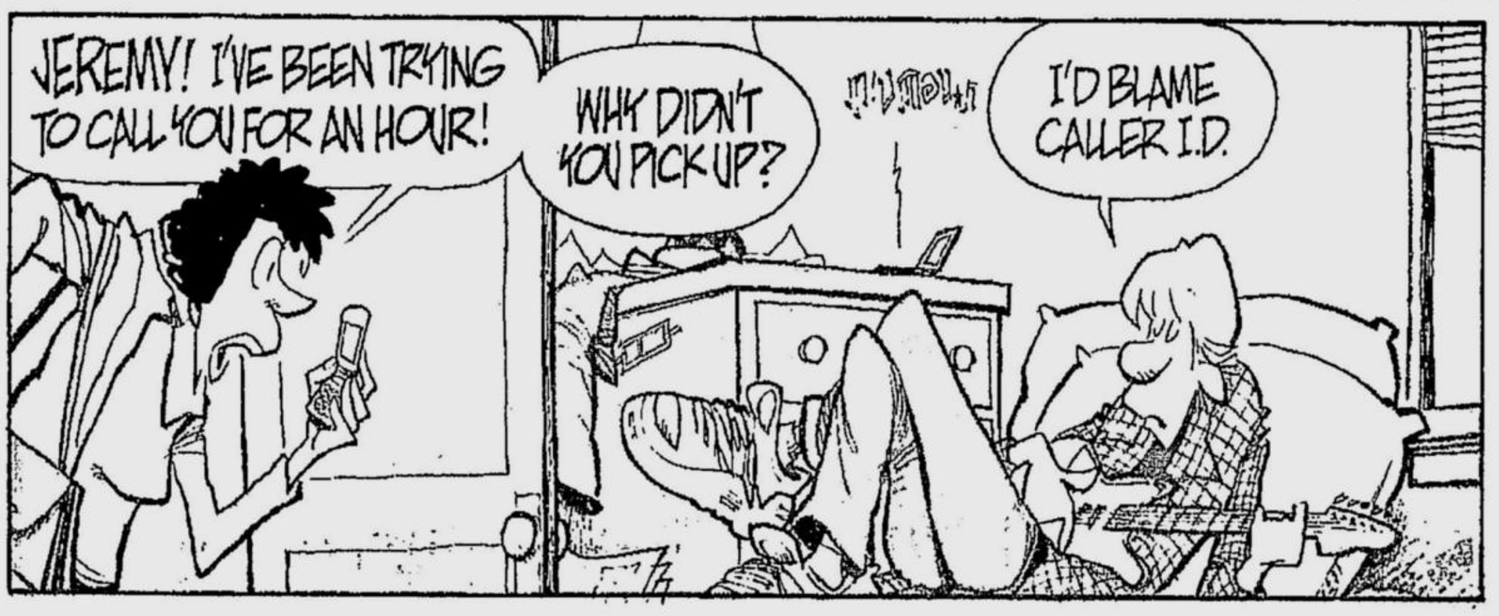

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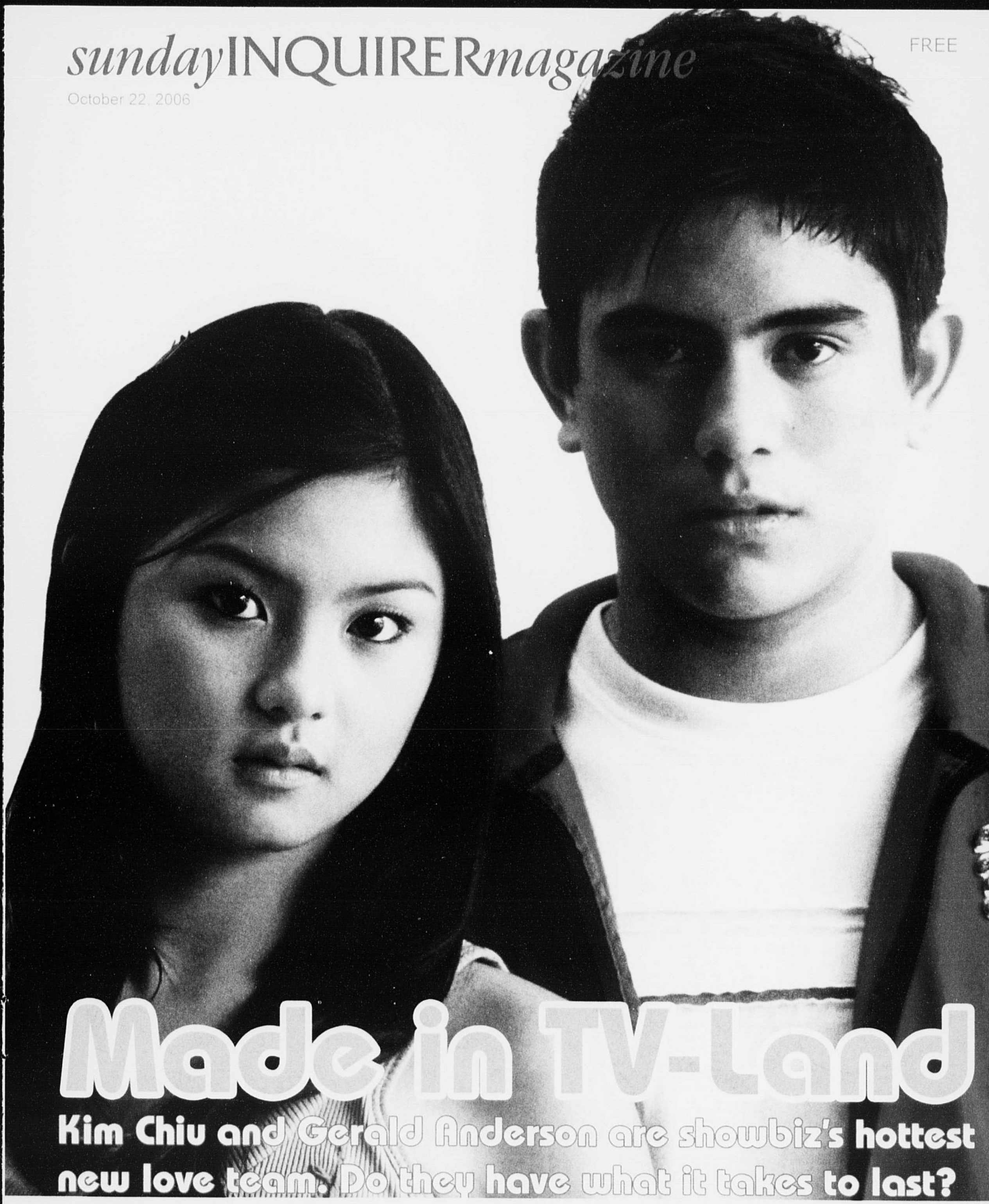

Made in TV-Land

Kim Chiu and Gerald Anderson are showbiz's hottest new love team. Do they have what it takes to last?

plus 5-step guide to collecting sculpture for dummies • George Clooney discovers Kenneth Cobonpue • P. Diddy's playboy chef, and more...

Why not the world?

– Lea Salonga

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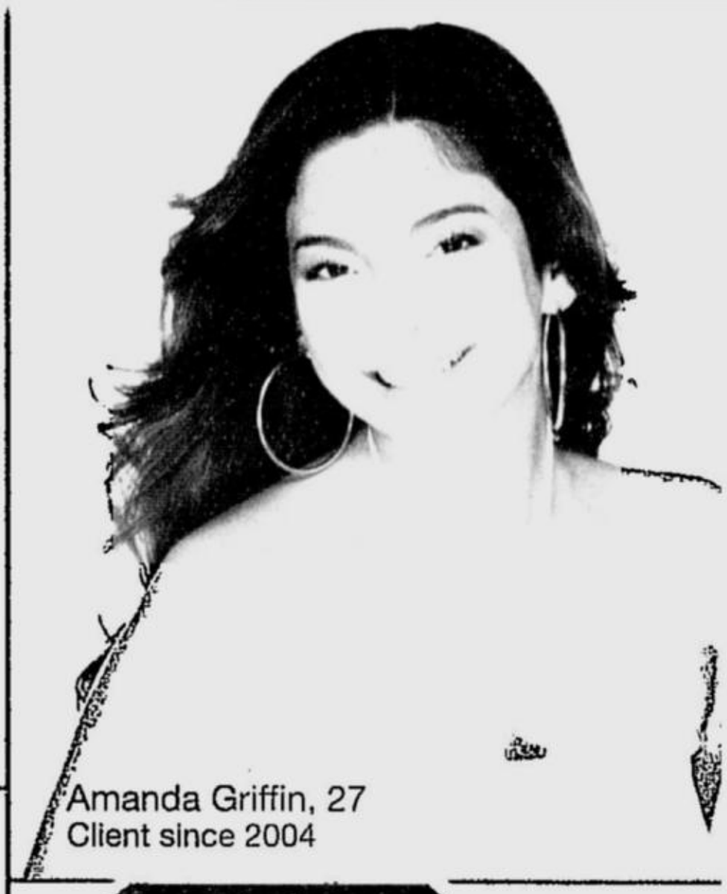

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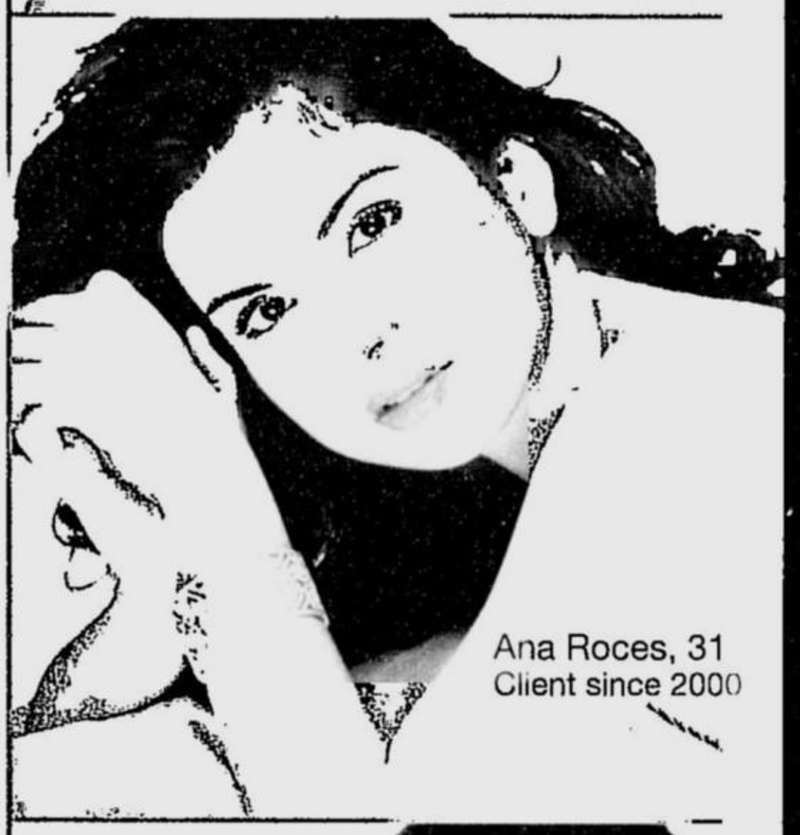

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Sculptor Pete Jimenez's medit ay M h a ar dk

Jeremiah Correa

ONGOING until Oct. 31 at the Mag:net Gallery Paseo in Makati is sculptor Pete Jimenez's third one-man show this year and his 10th since 2000, "Scrapyard," where he showcases some 21 pieces of iron works made from his junkyard finds. That's a lot of excursions to the junkyards in Antipolo and Fairview, where Jimenez heads on weekends to find the inspirations for his "direct sculpture," the raw material he buys by the kilo.

"I like it because I don't have to conceptualize anything from scratch," he says of scrap iron. "I find a piece, and then crazy ideas come into my head."

Thus, old metal strips that open like a flower become "Petal Attraction," a work with recurring zeros and a hint of a number seven is called "Bond, James Bond," and a hook with cartoonish toe-like protrusions becomes "Foot Spa."

Fortunately, the 46-year-old University of the Philippines Fine Arts grad, who now manages a post-production house that edits TV commercials, had a whole year to prepare for his show, having kept a low profile most of last year. With a welder assistant, he can complete a work in a weekend, since that's his only free time from work. "I like to play," he says. "The work I do is serious enough; you have to do what clients tell you all the time. Here, I can have complete freedom."

Jimenez has been exercising this freedom since his college days. He dabbled in painting, even winning an Art Association of the Philippines award in 1998, but it was UP Artists Circle brod and fellow artist Rock Drilon who encouraged him to go three-dimensional. The fun is carried over to special requests; Jimenez recently made a gate for a friend's house.

The artist gets his inspiration from the stuff he reads, the advertising industry he works in, and even the underwater world, as he's a certified scuba diver. He also hangs out with wife Lissa, herself formerly with a production house, and two daughters. And no, he doesn't like to use his formidable material to make serious monumental statements. As art critic Cid Reyes said of the artist, "Within a decade of dedicated and assiduous work, Jimenez has produced an impressive body of work distinguished not only for their wit and humor but also for the imaginative articulation of his core material: iron." Says Jimenez: "I don't like people over-analyzing my work. I want to make people happy. I like it when friends see my work on exhibit when they pass the gallery, and they text me, 'You're crazy!'" **Alya B. Honasan**

So You Want To Collect Sculpture

It's not as easy as hanging something on a wall. Here's a dummy's guide to starting a collection

YOU have the money, you want to invest, and two-dimensional objets d'art just don't cut it for you. Ateneo Art Gallery Curator Richie Lerma offers some suggestions for beginning collectors drawn to these enigmatic artworks.

1) **Do your homework.** Although it is your taste that will ultimately prevail, it also helps to become well-versed on the critical reputation of the artists. Check if the artist's work has been in exhibitions that (continued on page 13)

Menu

Margaux Salcedo

CHEF DADDY

The A-list speak in amazed tones about the culinary prowess of Jerrome Abustan, personal chef to none other than Sean "P. Diddy" Combs

SINCE P. Diddy's new album was released just this week, here's some timely trivia: Pussycat Doll Nicole Scherzinger isn't the only Filipino of close proximity to the media mogul. It is a well kept secret but we should be proud to know that this Bad Boy's personal chef is also Pinoy.

Yup, you read that right. Of all the A-class chefs in the world, P. Diddy, selective as he is, chose Philippine-born albeit New York-bred chef Jerrome Abustan. But keep your lips sealed because Chef Jerrome is one of the best-kept secrets of the New York A-list. Prior to becoming Diddy's personal chef, he had already executed private dinners for other moguls and celebrities such as Michael J. Fox and designer Vera Wang.

His name is passed around by word of mouth, and he has no clue as to how these celebrities get a hold of his digits, but somehow he is contacted for private dinners or other gatherings for as few as six heads or as big as 30 heads in one night. Sometimes the person who contacts him does not even say that it is a celebrity that he will be cooking for, leaving Chef Jerrome surprised when he meets his celebrity host.

Diddy's favorite: Pan Roasted Red Snapper and Prawns with Cauliflower Puree and Tomato Vinaigrette

But for The Diddy himself, Chef Jerrome had a more difficult time, pretty much having to audition for the role of personal chef. "I had to do six tastings to please Mr. Combs." Apparently, Puffy is quite picky. Only after these six tastings --each consisting of an appetizer, an entrée and a dessert--did Chef Jerrome get the job. "I really didn't know if I was going to get it or not but I jumped at the opportunity anyway because I had always been a fan of Puff Daddy, from way back, from the time of Notorious B.I.G."

It has been a dream come true for this young Filipino chef (he is only in his mid thirties), who shares that Diddy fondly calls him "Playboy" when asking about the day's menu (as in, "Yo, playboy what we havin' for lunch today?"). But more than that, Chef Jerrome shares that working with Diddy is any chef's dream come true because he is given free reign with the menu. "I pretty much come up with everything. He just gives me general guidelines, like whether he would prefer steak or fish for that evening. But as to the recipe, my limit is pretty much my creativity." And the perks of working for a star do not end there. "Another great thing is that Diddy puts no dollar cap on my culinary creativity. He always wants the best of anything and everything so he never puts a lid on the budget. I mean, if meat is on the menu you can expect that it would be Kobe or Wagyu steak, nothing less."

So is there a hitch? Are these celebrities a pain to cook for? "Nothing at all. Celebrities are great to cook for. The only difference really is that they are more specific with their needs - a lot watch their diets - so I need to be abreast with the current diet trends and do my own share of research. I kind of also work as a personal nutritionist."
Another challenge is being able to change orders at a moment's notice. "Sometimes a guest will arrive who has an allergy to a certain ingredient that we did not know of. In that case, I would have to whip up something that would cater to that guest's needs immediately."

But this is nothing new to Chef Jerrome, who has paid his dues with New York's kitchens. After graduating from the Culinary Institute of America, he worked his way up the ladder at Le Cirque restaurant (formerly on Madison between 50 and 51st, it is re-opening at One Beacon Court on 58th near Lexington) where entrees cost a snobbish average of $45. Here he started as garde manger and worked his way up the stations from soups to vegetables to pastas to meats.

After three years, he moved to another New York culinary institution, La Grenouille, famed for its French cuisine and heralded by Zagat as "the epitome of everlasting elegance." More than the restaurant's reputation, however, the come-on for Chef Jerrome to work at this restaurant was the opportunity to work at

continued on page 12)

The Accidental Photographer

This New York-based Pinoy lensman discovered a second career in landscape fine arts photography

CALOY Esguerra knew he was on to something when a tourist couple from Colorado saw his photograph of Death Valley in the store window of a frame shop and refused to budge until he sold it to them.

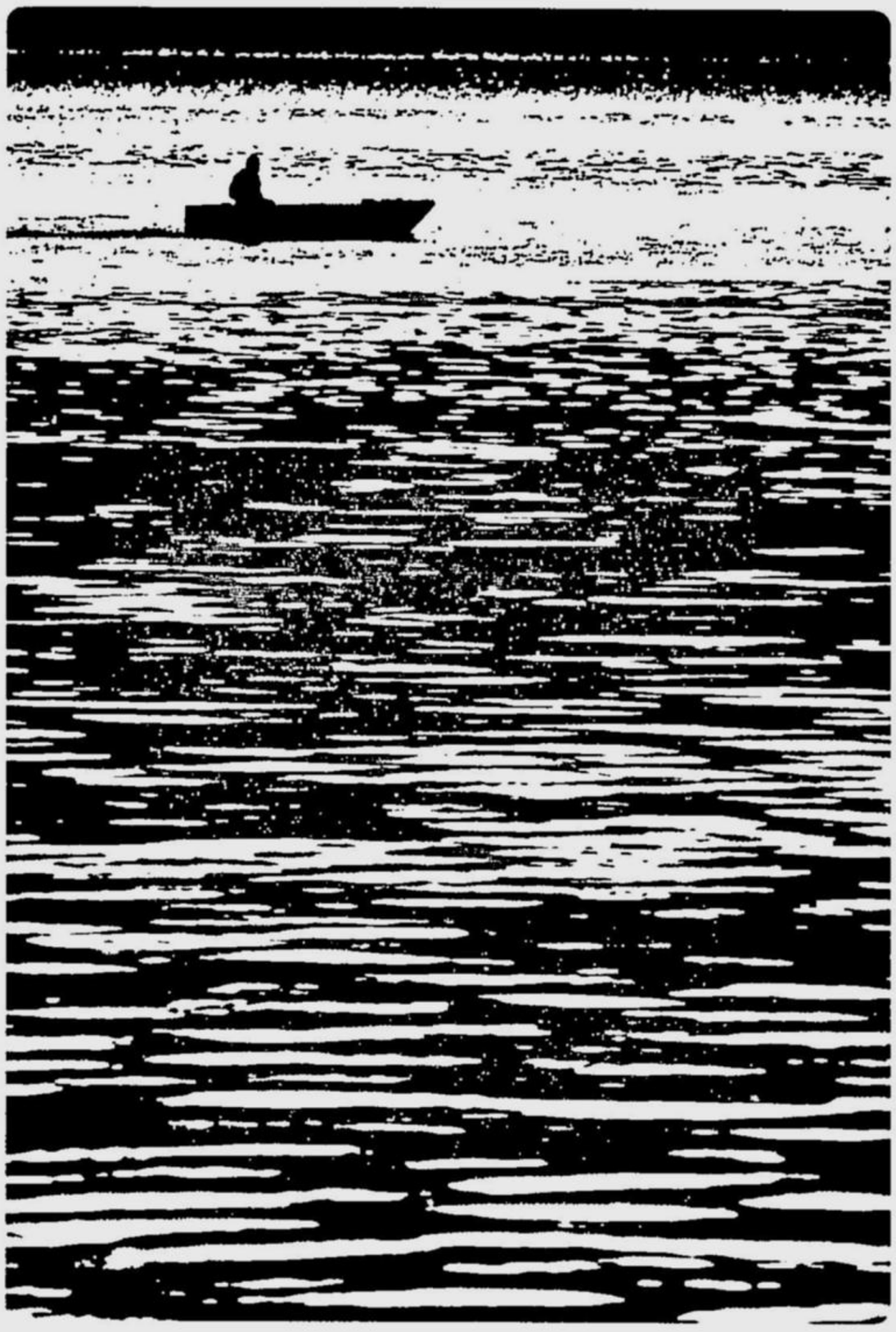
A few months before, he and wife Carol had visited Santa Fe, New Mexico and chanced upon a photo gallery owner who conducts photo expeditions in the American Southwest. The computer consultant, who was a member of the UP Photo Society in his college days, was intrigued enough to join the group to Death Valley, California in February 1999.

When he had one of his shots enlarged and framed in this Manhattan shop, the owner decided to display his work while waiting for him to claim it. That was where the Colorado couple saw and obsessed over it. The owner then displayed another of his framed shots, and again, it sold quickly. "I asked myself, do people really react that strongly to my photographs? That was my epiphany," recalls Esguerra.

Taking early retirement, he decided on a second career and left the lucrative computer field where he has worked for 36 years. It was worth it: in only seven years since he took fine arts photography seriously, Esguerra has won 27 US and international awards for his landscape photographs. He's also had his works exhibited at the MoMA in New York and other galleries around the world.

He was strongly influenced by Japanese Zen principles, explains this Business and Economics graduate from the University of the Philippines, who obtained his MBA from The George Washington University in Washington, DC. "I strive to make my images simple, clean, and uncluttered. I like to capture the beauty of God's creation in the most suitable light, with the least number of elements, framed and composed in simple and austere view."

The multi-awarded photographer lives in New York with wife Carolina Vicencio, a UP Architecture graduate. They have two daughters, one of whom is finishing her Ph.D in Molecular and Developmental Biology, while the younger one is an accomplished violinist who studied Arthurian literature at Oxford University and now teaches high school history, music, Homer and Dante.

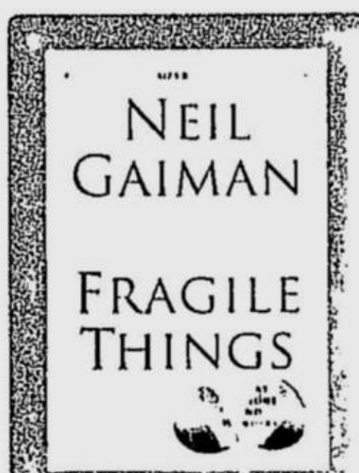


Esguerra had a well-received exhibit at the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati early this year which, he says, broke his record "in terms of sales during an exhibition, even at New York prices." Catch his three-day exhibit until today at the Alpha Phi Beta Convention at the Great Eastern Hotel (Aberdeen Court), 1403 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Or log on to http://clegallery.photofolio.com, http://clesguerra.photofolio.com to view his works. **Pennie Azarcon-Dela Cruz**

Figure It Out

85.3 million: The census projection for the Philippine population in 2005
34.7 million: The total number of mobile telephone subscribers in the Philippines for 2005
41.3 percent: Density of cellphone subscribers in the Philippines
250 million: Estimated number of text messages sent by Filipinos every day.

The List



Neil's Favorite Things

ONE does not need to be an acolyte of The Sandman to appreciate Neil Gaiman's delicate concoctions in conversation and conversion. Experience the dynamic body of arcana that is Gaiman's uncollected prose—and a few unusual poems—in "Fragile Things: Short Fictions and Wonders" (William Morrow, available at Fully Booked, P1,199). The 31 pieces gathered here have seen print separately in various anthologies and side projects over years. Consider this a package of smaller doses of Gaiman magic, some better than others but all inimitably Gaiman. It is recommended that the reader savor each piece, taking time to pause in between, to maximize the addictive twists. "Stories," Gaiman explains, "like people and butterflies and songbirds' eggs and human hearts and dreams, are also fragile things, made up of nothing stronger or more lasting than twenty-six letters and a handful of punctuation marks." But then, that is more than enough.

Perfectly in Toon

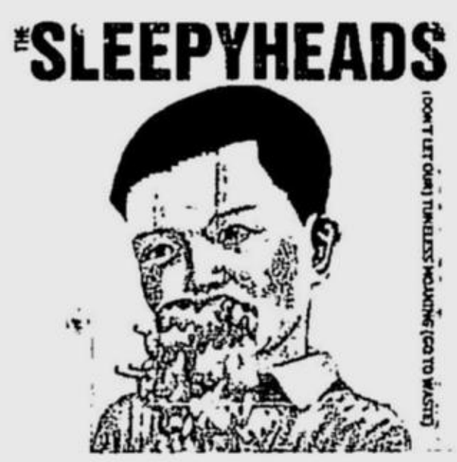
VISIT Elbert Or's blog (http://mars4.blogspot.com) and explore the creative, kooky and charming world of this talented comic book creator ("Cast"). What makes Or's blog special isn't just the fantastically stylized illustrations he peppers throughout the entries, or the outstanding, continually evolving cartoon strips that make up his "I Breathe Comics" progression. It's Or's rants and raves about his life as an adult out on his own, as a doting uncle, or just as an occasional romantic who can't catch a break. Whatever it is, Or's stuff is addictively entertaining. Make it a habit. **RSDV**

Wonde Bread

IF YOU'VE ever wanted to have French bread with herbs and cheese instead of some partially hydrogenated snack food while watching a cool movie on TV, then tear open a package of Oishi's Bread Pan (available at your friendly supermarket, P5+ for a 50g pouch). Yes, it's a snack based on toasted bread with a surprising flavor kick. The Cheese and Onion flavor is just right on the mark. **RSDV**

Wisdom Corner

SOME of them sound like Paulo Coehlo, while a few seem to come straight out of a Hallmark card. But most words of wisdom embroidered, beaded or printed on refrigerator magnets, notepads, stationery, wall hangings, tea towels, picture frames, key chains, small pillows, etc. in The Wisdom Corner are thankfully tongue in cheek, the playful tone tempering the mush. A few samples: "There cannot be a crisis this week; my schedule is already full;" "Born to shop, forced to work, " and from the Girlie Whirlie series: "There are two choices for dinner: take it or leave it;" and "I'm on a 30-day diet, and so far, I've lost 15 days." No whiners in this corner, that's for sure. The Wisdom Corner, 2L, The Block, SM North, Quezon City. Pennie Azarcon-Dela Cruz

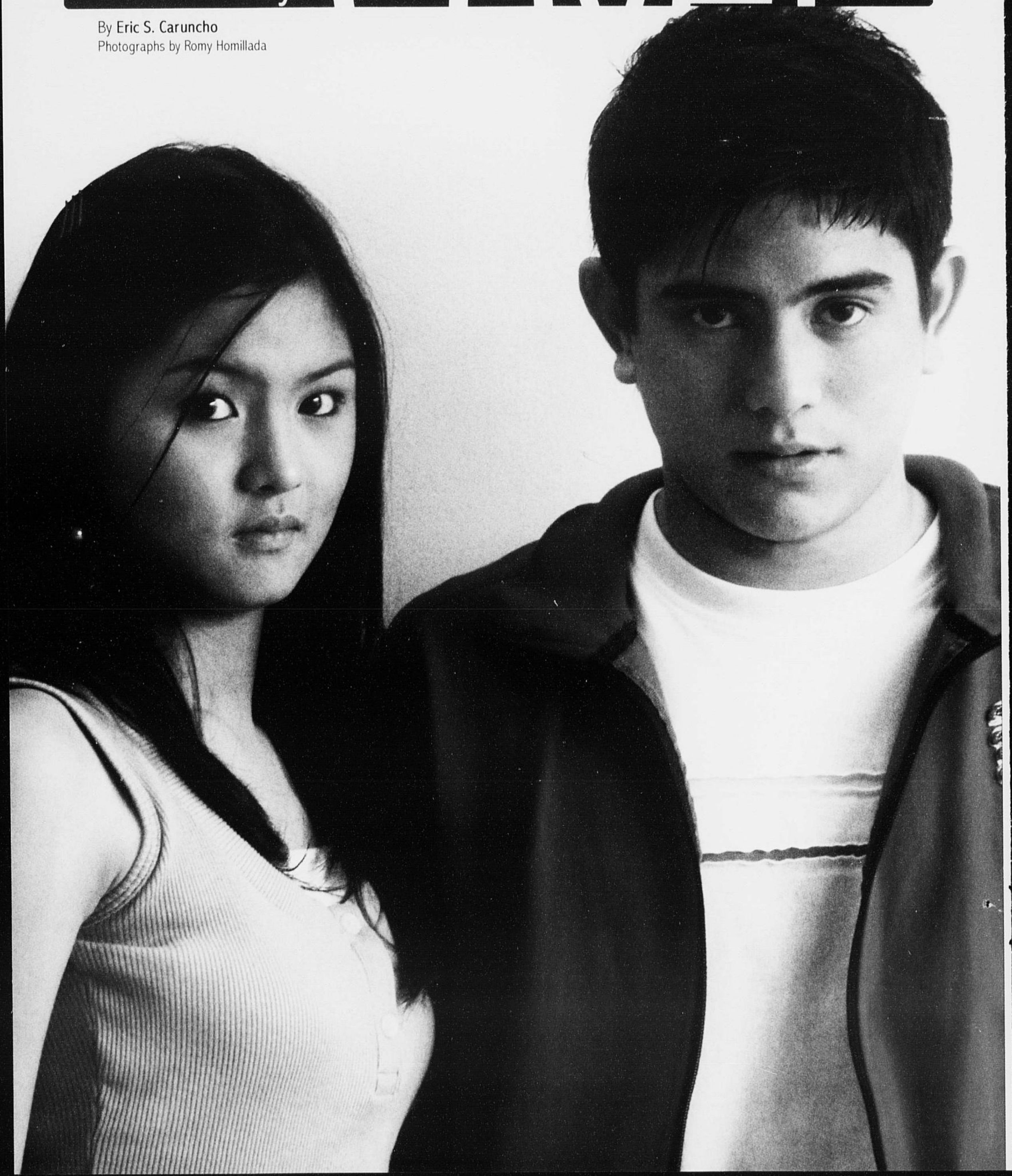


(Don't Let Their) Tuneless Moaning (Go To Waste)

ONE of my favorite live music moments was hearing Yano segue midway through "*Banal na Aso*" into the Velvet Underground's "Heroin" (Mayric's, mid-'90s). Everybody claims the Velvet Underground as an influence, but few local bands actually draw their sound from VU's primal guitar drone. That is, until the Sleepyheads. By applying the Velvet's (and the Modern Lovers') principle of monotonous rhythmic repetition to such loser anthems as "I'm Not Good Enough" and "Janitor Fate" (hmm, self-esteem problems?), the Sleepyheads turn their downbeat content against itself, making them ironically defiant and exhilarating declarations of willful oddity. The opposite of "*pogi* rock" isn't "*pangit* rock," it's the Sleepyheads' "Tuneless Moaning." **Eric S. Caruncho**

Cover Story

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photographs by Romy Homillada



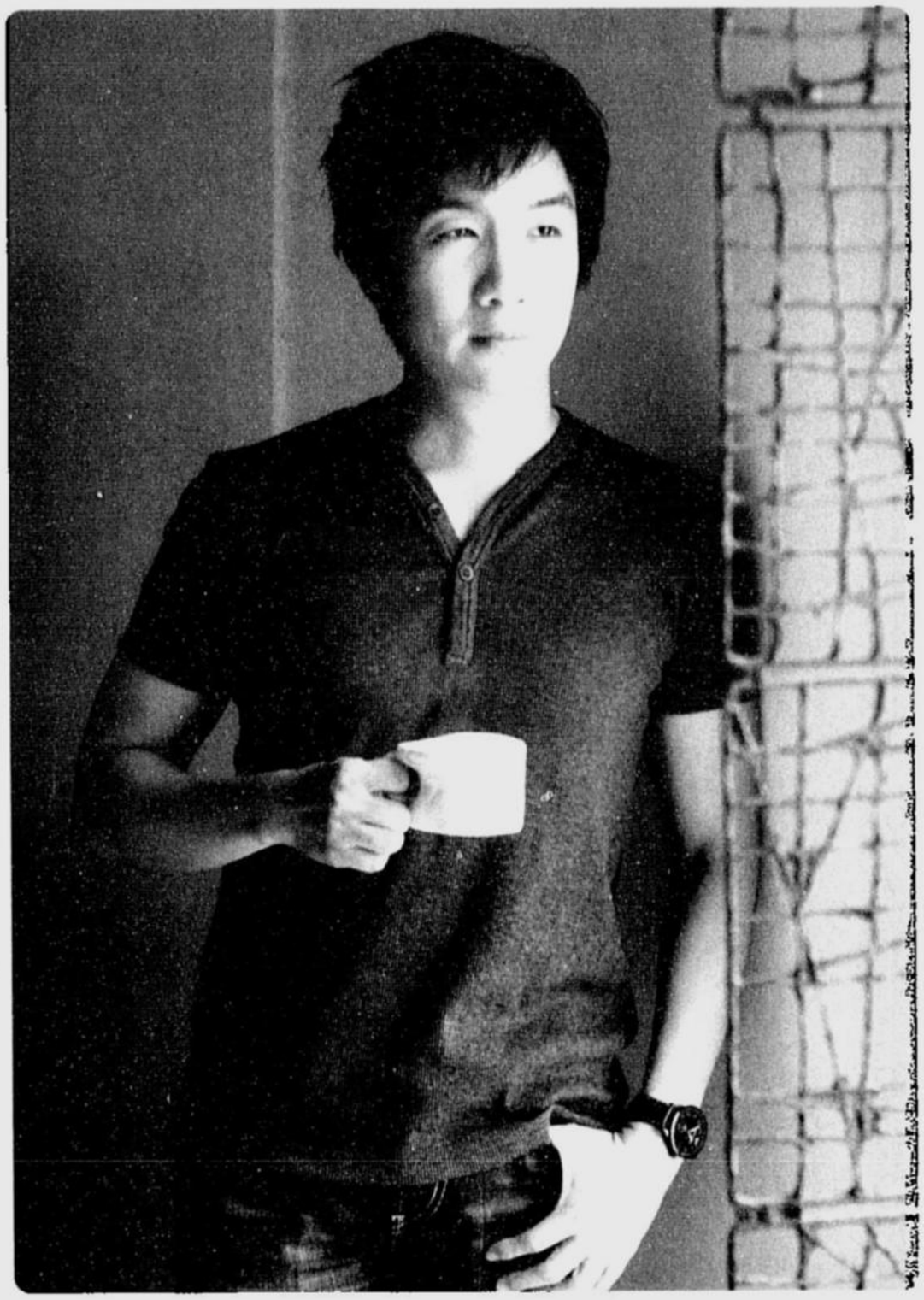
MADE IN TV-LAND

Chimera—an imaginary creature in Greek mythology with the head of a lion, the body of a goat and the tail of a serpent; a figure of fantasy.
Rhymes with:
Kimerald—an imaginary two-headed creature hailed as Philippine showbiz's hottest new love team.

KIM Chiu giggles. A lot.
And why not? She's sweet 16 and she's got the world at her feet, at least for now. Together with her "*ka*-love team," Amboy Gerald Anderson, who's just one year older, she forms the formidable showbiz franchise known as "Kimerald," an entity that might exist only in the imagination of their fans, but which has a very real ability to generate audience ratings and pull in revenue.
Almost immediately after the pair was discovered on the Teen Edition of "Pinoy Big Brother," Chiu and Anderson landed regular gigs on a sitcom, a soap opera and a teleseries, starred in their very first movie, and won lucrative endorsement deals.
So far, it's been a rollercoaster ride. Who wouldn't be giddy?
"*Syempre hindi naman namin in*-imagine *na ganito ang mangyayari paglabas namin*" (We didn't imagine that this would happen when we appeared on TV), says Chiu, a high schooler from Cebu . She continues: "*Wala lang. Nakita lang kami sa TV, ganun-ganon. tawa lang kami nang tawa sa ginagawa namin, tapos paglabas mo ganito na, biglang may mga* projects *na ibibigay sa iyo.*" (They just saw us on TV, just like that. We're just having fun then when suddenly, we have projects.) Super *nagpapasalamat ako sa* blessings, *sobrang saya na maraming nagtitiwala sa kakayahan ko.*" (I'm super thankful for the blessings, and very happy that people trust in my abilities.)
"Wow!" concurs Anderson, the Fil-American from Gen. Santos City, in twangy Tagalog. "*Nandito na kami bigla, pero gusto namin ito. Masaya, kahit* first time *namin, hindi namin alam kung ano mangyayari, pero enjoy kami.*" (All of a sudden, we're here. But we like it. It's fun, even if it's our first time and we don't know what happens next.)
"Kimerald" is greater than the sum of its parts. Individually, Chiu and Anderson are nice-looking enough, maybe a little underdeveloped in the talent department. But taken together, they seem to have something better than mere talent or raw physical beauty: They have the ability to capture people's imaginations.
In short, they're prime "love team" material.
"What exactly is a love team?," asks Jose Javier Reyes in his insightful essay "Everybody Loves a Love Team" (published a few years back in the Inquirer). "Definition: Two (hopefully, presumably, although arguably) beautiful young actors (not necessarily sharing the same talent manager) thrown together by fate and the marketing department of a major media company. They are packaged, peddled and immortalized through all the possible convolutions of print, television, radio and film to resemble heterosexual homo sapiens existing for the sheer reason of love, sweet love. Their immortality is guaranteed by a steady yet choreographed flow of pictorials, rumors and, hopefully, projects."
Kimerald fits the definition to a T: Although Anderson was sent packing midway through "Pinoy Big Brother," audiences clamored for his return because they thought he was "*bagay*" with Chiu, the eventual winner.
Showbiz may not be an exact science, but network execs know a good thing when it bites them in the ass, and nobody ever lost money giving the people what they wanted.
But why these two in particular?
One can only speculate:
Chinese-Filipino Chiu fit the current "Asianovela"-inspired vogue for the East Asian look; in fact she was quickly pitted by the showbiz press as a rival to Korean Sandara Park in a wholly-manufactured "battle of the *singkit*" (chinky-eyed). In manner and speech, however, she is the typical inarticulate Pinoy teenager, presumably her fan base (although the members of the "Kimerald" Fan Club look suspiciously long in the tooth). The fact that she comes from Cebu was probably also a plus (the Cebuano vote is not just for elections, you know).
In contrast, Anderson grew up in the States, but now calls Gen. San home (the Visayan vote again), and audiences find his American-accented Tagalog "cute."
The cultural gap between the two offers endless sitcom possibilities-everybody knows opposites attract. But if Philippine movies teach us anything, there can only be one outcome: love conquers all.
As Reyes explains in his essay, the perennial appeal of the love team hinges on the ambiguity surrounding the supposed relationship: Are they or aren't they?
"The Pinoy audience will find ultimate consolation through shortcut processes of escape, blurring the illusion created by media and hoping that this would translate to reality...This is the only explanation (on) why not only sympathy but fanatic empathy is invested by die-hards in wanting the TV/movie love team to be truly, honestly and really in love even without the stare and glare of cameras. The nagging question

(continued on page 13)

By **Jing Ramos**
Photographs by Charles Buenconsejo



Along Global Lines

NEVER in the history of mankind has there been a bombardment of so much junk like today, about how to live and what to buy. In today's world of mass-produced goods made by cold machines, people want something that is natural, sensual and human. Kenneth Cobonpue's designs are made for individuals who want to be treated as such. That's why they have always evoked warmth and emotion.

Kenneth has created a brand-new physical context in the realm of furniture design. His designs display restraint in their use of materials and shapes. The designer's contribution to the design world, however, stems from his early training, and in the fact that he is the son of the famous designer Betty Cobonpue, who was schooled in Parson's New York. She was instrumental in the development of furniture design in this country, and became an early pioneer in rattan inlay design as early as the 1960s.

After 11 years in the academic world, Kenneth took over Interior Crafts of the Islands Incorporated in 1997, a family-owned company that has been exporting furniture since the economic boom in 1984.

This 37-year-old Cebuano, recipient of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines Award in 2003, as well as the Perlas Award for Outstanding Cebuano in 2004, grew up with the smell of lacquer, wood, rattan and in the world of furniture design and production. "My mother started to make furniture from our backyard. I grew up with the craftsmen and artists who went about their work around the house. I was exposed to the craft at a very early age."

His academic journey began in the University of the Philippines in Dilliman, Quezon City, as a Business Administration student. After two years, he shifted courses and addresses. Kenneth took up Industrial Design at the Pratt Institute of New York, where he finished with summa cum laude honors. After that, he apprenticed in a leather and wood company in Florence, Italy and earned certificates of completion for furniture marketing for Europe and basic woodworking machine courses in Germany. "My design aesthetic was honed during my years in New York, Germany and Italy. Traveling, observing and experimenting keep me creative."

Kenneth's magic medium is rattan, a material he finds easy to work with-easier than wood, as versatile as bamboo. Rattan was a popular material in the '50s for patio furniture but failed in comparison to the lackluster and cheap imports of the '80s. The designer hopes that his work will elevate rattan and other natural and indigenous materials to a higher level, and make them chic again.

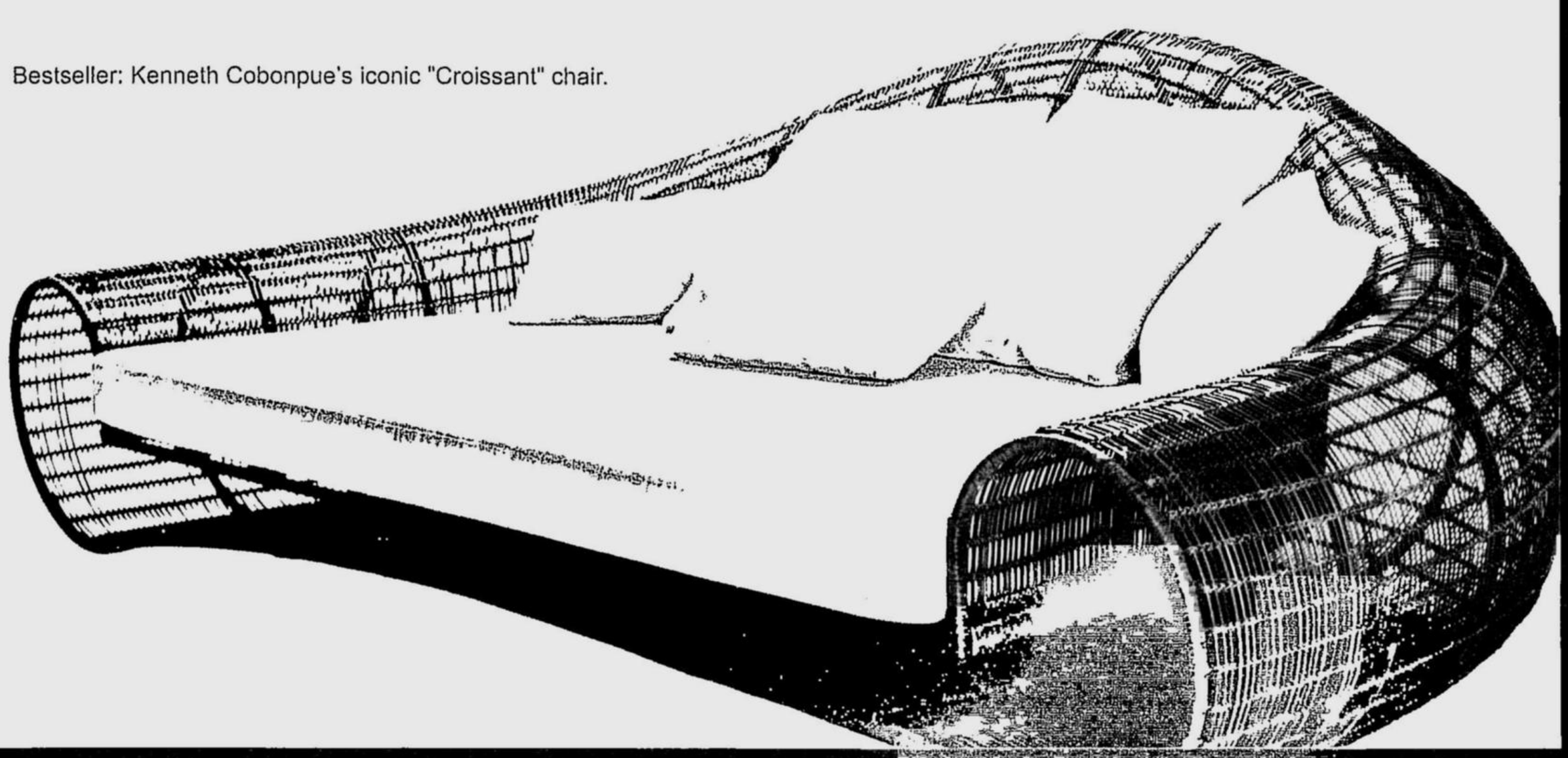
Brad Pitt bought Kenneth's first ever outdoor Croissant three years ago from a shop in L.A. that carries the Kenneth Cobonpue collection. Brad then ordered the Pigalle Chair months later. Last year the movie star ordered the Voyage Bed in a custom size for his son Maddox, and just recently, ordered two outdoor Dragnet Chairs in custom colors. Warner Brothers also bought a few pieces from Kenneth for an Asian Casino lounge in the upcoming George Clooney movie "Oceans 13." After he sent them a catalog, the film company decided to outfit the entire lounge. The designer remarked that the set designers of the movie told him they've never ordered so much from one company, and jokingly added, "Maybe we should now call it Casino Cobonpue!"

On a more recent note, Kenneth is currently developing other things besides furniture, but still in his trademark organic and handmade aesthetic. Now, however, he is experimenting in the fields of transportation and interior spaces. Without details, the designer assures that this project is in keeping with his mission to bring his design aesthetic into every field possible.

Lexus USA has asked Kenneth to be one of the very few hand-picked individuals, and companies whose work is relevant to the eco-chic lifestyle pushed by their new generation of hybrid vehicles, through their campaign called "Hybrid Living." This is because Kenneth's work, which combines natural materials, organic forms and modern aesthetics, happens to be synonymous with the luxury car brand's constant search for well-designed, environmentally-friendly solutions to transportation.

The designer confesses that it can be difficult to divide time between family and work, but at the end of the day, he asks himself what he is here for, and the answer is clear. Kenneth Cobonpue declares, "Life is about the relationships we keep. Everything I have, including my designs, is relevant only because people think so. Maybe it's a source of inspiration, a thing of beauty or a point of connection, but ultimately, everything I do is for family, friends and the generations who know my work and those about to." •

Bestseller: Kenneth Cobonpue's iconic "Croissant" chair.



SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

4 7	9	
3	4	5
5	2	9
7	6 3	1
1	5	2
2	6	7
	1	4 3

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Answer to previous puzzle

6 7 4	5 3 8	2 1 9
8 3 2	9 1 6	5 7 4
5 9 1	2 7 4	8 3 6
7 2 3	1 9 5	6 4 8
9 6 5	8 4 3	1 2 7
1 4 8	7 6 2	3 9 5
4 8 7	6 2 1	9 5 3
3 1 6	4 5 9	7 8 2
2 5 9	3 8 7	4 6 1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

*sunday*INQUIRER*magazine*
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Publisher: Leica R. Carpo
Editor in Chief: Alya B. Honasan
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Graphic Consultant: Paolo Viloria
Editorial Assistant: Sharon M. Felipe
Advertising and Sales Officer: Mylene de Jesus
Marketing Officer: Chito San Mateo

Cover: Kim Chiu and Gerald Anderson
Photograph: Romy Homillada
Volume 20 No. 33 October 22, 2006
ISSN 0116-232X

Menu (from page 5

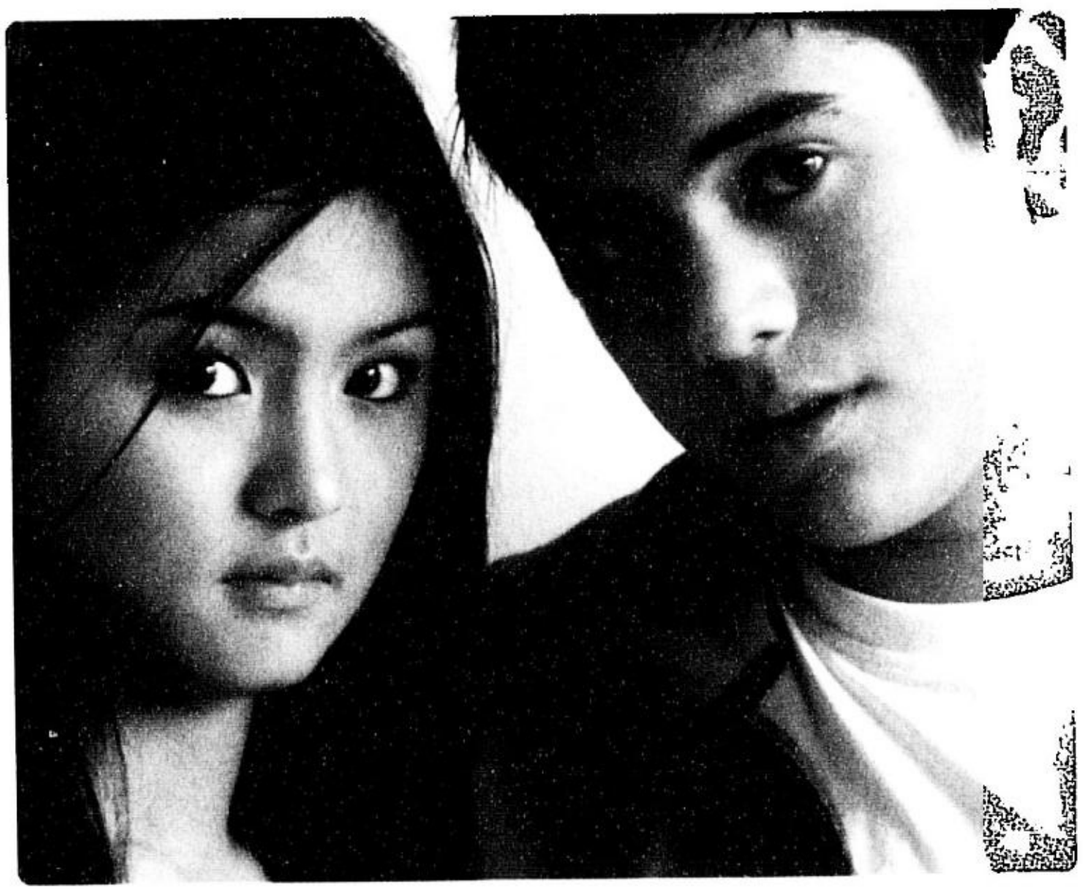
the station right across one of today's most famous pastry chefs. chocolatier Jacques Torres. "I was able to watch his every move and learned a lot from him. After a while we became friends and I literally helped build his first chocolate shop in Brooklyn. Some of the shelves there were hammered in by me." A few years later, he was recruited as sous chef at an exclusive club in the Upper East side, Club Metropolitan. Today he is executive chef at this membership-only restaurant, serving anybody who is somebody in the City.

"I've pretty much cooked for all the big names - sports stars, Hollywood A-listers, real estate moguls, heads of state, you name it." I asked who the regulars at the club are. "J. Lo and Marc Anthony live in the building so we cook for them all the time. You know when she's in town because she always orders the same thing - salmon." Recently, he whipped up a buffet at Club Metropolitan for a benefit dinner for former President Clinton's Global Initiative. "It was a fund raising event attended by CEOs from large corporations, wealthy foreign business men and dignitaries. Don't know their names. All kept confidential. They had a lean and healthy buffet."

I wondered what people who run the world eat. Apparently, very high brow food: The buffet had Roasted Free Range Chicken with Orange and Fennel Glaze, Asian Marinated Sliced Steak, Organic Rose Matta Rice, Seasonal Steamed Baby Vegetables, Grilled Wild Striped Bass with Sauce Vierge, Herbed Fingerling Potatoes, a variety of green salads and Fresh Fruit for dessert."

Chef Jerrome works at Club Metropolitan on the weekdays then goes to Diddy's East Hampton mansion on the weekends. I asked for other secrets about P. Diddy but the chef would not oblige, respecting his favorite client. "There's usually a confidentiality clause so I really can't disclose anything." Except for this: "I can say without a doubt that he loves, loves, loves apple pie." •

Pan Roasted Red Snapper and Prawns with Cauliflower Puree and Tomato Vinaigrette
4 Servings
1 head of cauliflower
2 tbsp honey
2 tbsp butter
Salt and pepper
Cut cauliflower into small pieces and put in a medium sized pot. Add butter and honey. Cover the pot and cook over low to medium heat for 25 minutes. Cauliflower should be mushy. Place in a food processor and blend until smooth in consistency. Season with salt and pepper.
For Vinaigrette:
2 pcs tomato chopped
1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
2 tsp ketchup
1/2 tsp vinegar (balsamic, red wine vinegar, white wine vinegar)
Salt and pepper
Place chopped tomato, ketchup, and vinegar in a blender at low speed and slowly drizzle in olive oil until mixture is emulsified. Season with salt and pepper. Strain and set aside.
2 fillets of red snapper (or any other firm fleshed fish)
8 pcs prawns or large shrimp (cleaned and deveined)
Cut fillet of snapper in half. Yield 4 pcs.
Heat large saute pan. When hot, add 2 tbsp of olive oil, place fish fillets and prawns in pan.
Place pan in oven at 450 degrees. Remove pan from oven when the flesh of the fish is opaque. To assemble, spoon puree onto plate and top with fish and prawn, then drizzle with vinaigrette. Garnish with fresh fennel and red cabbage.



Cover Story (from page 9)

perennially asked is, "*Sila na ba·talaga? Magkakatuluyan kaya sila*?"...Because of the emotional investment awarded not only by fans but by the consumer/public, the dreadful obligation to push the love team beyond the video or celluloid realm becomes compulsory. It can never be enough that the members of the blessed pair are in love in the movies or their bread-and-butter TV shows; they must also be in love outside the set, press conference or pictorials."

Asked whether she feels any pressure to make the love team "real," Chiu replies: "*Totohanin? Huwag muna! Huwag muna 'yon, kasi kung nag-away kami, mahirap pong umarte. Nag-aaway kayo tapos sweet kayo sa eksena? Nag-usap nga kami nang ganoon tapos tawa lang kami nang tawa. Makakapaghintay naman yon.* crush-crush *na lang muna po. Kung mangyayari po, mangyayari't mangyayari naman 'yon, pero hindi pa po sa ngayon. Eh wala pa naman pong nangyayari, kaya huwag na munang magmadali, kasi mahirap pagsabayin ang* love *at ang trabahong ito.*" (Not yet. If we fight, it would be hard to maintain the love team act on camera. We talked about this already, and we just laughed about it. That can wait; for now, we'll settle for crushes. If it's meant to happen, it will, but not now. Nothing's happening yet, so let's not hurry. It's hard to deal with love and this job at the same time.)

Anderson agrees. "It's not really pressure," he says in Filipino. "Slowly, step-by-step *lang kami*, relax *lang*, focus *lang kami dito.*" In fact, it's all the kids can do to keep up with the work schedule that their managers have drawn up, in true "strike while the iron is hot" fashion. With acting workshops, tapings and promotional appearances taking up nearly all their waking hours, there is precious little time (or privacy) for any intimacy.

Besides, Chiu and Anderson are still adjusting to their sudden fame. It's as if they're afraid to pinch themselves because they might wake up and discover it's all a dream.

"*Isa 'yon sa kinatatakutan ko*," admits Chiu. "*Kasi mabilis ang pagsikat ko, siguro mabilis din 'yung... sana naman hindi. Mamimiss ko yung buhay artista. Pero habang nandito pa siya, e*-enjoy *ko muna.*" (That's one thing I'm afraid of. Because we became famous overnight, we might...I hope not. I will miss the celebrity life. But while it's here, I'll enjoy it.)

Anderson feels the same way: "*Sana magkaderecho-derecho na so gagalingan ko lahat ng bagay sa* showbiz *para maayos lahat. Masaya ako sa* love team *namin. Masaya ko dito, sobra.*" (I hope things go smoothly. I'll do my best in all things showbiz so it goes okay. I'm happy with our love team. I'm very happy here.)

Amen. •

Collecting Sculpture (from page 4)

have been written about in respectable art journals, or featured in museums and galleries. Visit museums and what Lerma calls "serious commercial galleries—not the kind with all the other decorative stuff on display," and when given the chance, visit sculptors at home. "Because sculptures are hard to store and are not generally commercially viable, there are a lot of works that don't make it to galleries," says Lerma. You can learn a lot by dropping by the studios of artists like Julie Lluch or Impy Pilapil, for example, to see what treasures they have that's hidden.

2) **Choose pieces you can live with. In other words, you have to like what you buy.** "This is not like stocks if you're buying them for investment," Lerma notes. "You have to live with these pieces for the long term."

3) **Determine how much space you have.** Will you display the works indoors or outdoors? Are the spaces big enough to accommodate larger-than-life pieces? "That's why most of the sculptures sold today are of smaller scale," Lerma says. "To make them more collectible, and also to consider how much space people have."

4) **Pick material you like.** Whether it's metal, wood or glass, see what appeals to you. Then see how an artist works with the medium. "He has to be able to stay true to the intrinsic qualities of the material," Lerma says. "Don't fall for sensationalism and gimmickry in art—trying to make the material something it's not." See how the artist works with the grain of wood, or the facets of glass. It's the best way to see if the artist understands his medium, and is indeed worth your investment.

5) **Finally, go out and buy—and understand what you re paying for.** There are few more insensitive quotes than the familiar, "Hey, I can make that." "Really?" Lerma challenges. "You have to remember that you're not just paying for the material—it's worth so much more than that. You're paying for an idea, a history, a reputation, a life dedicated to the pursuit of this art." In other words, if you're going to collect art, learn to appreciate it, and the people who make it possible. **ABH**

"Foot Spaa" by Pete Jimenez

www.sim

HAPPY HIPPIE HOLIDAY

DIG them crazy headbands! Before there was Kimerald, of course, there was...Vi and Bot! Like Nora Aunor before him, Edgar Mortiz had been an undefeated champion of the *"Tawag ng Tanghalan"* singing contest (the "Philippine Idol" of its time) when he decided to enter showbiz in the late 1960s. Naturally, the network wanted to team him up with La Aunor, but he got pipped by Pip (Tirso Cruz III). TV director Tony Santos then paired Bot off with former *"Eskuwelahang Munti"* playmate Vilma Santos, and the ultimate Love Team was born. Their fate was sealed when they were signed to do a weekly show called "D' Sensations" in 1970. Martial law put an end to that, and the couple called in quits in 1974. Vi, of course, went on to become the multi-awarded "Star for All Seasons" before entering politics as Mayor of Lipa City. Bot soldiered on as a Bad Banana before shifting to life behind the camera as TV director. But they live on as a couple in our fond memories of a more innocent time. •

Photo reprinted from the book "Pinoy Television:
The Story of ABS-CBN"

Hieddy's
PHOTOGRA

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Even rich people needing cash run to pawnshops

INFOTECH / B2-2

Virtual malls: Are Filipino consumers ready for online shopping?

NEWS / A11

Environmentalists protest toxic waste pact with Japan

SPORTS / A30

St. Louis Cardinals take opening game of World Series

Patience runs deep in RP call centers

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN ANGRY AMERICAN phoned in, complaining of a broken "cup holder."

The Filipino call center agent at the other end of the line calmly asked

PATIENCE / A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, October 23, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 317 P18 website: www.inq7.net

2 Mega Pacific owners bag new Comelec deal

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HAS AWARDed a P78-million printing contract to a firm owned by two of the eight incorporators of Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc. (MPEI), the company behind the P1.3-billion deal to supply automated counting machines that the Supreme Court voided two years ago.

2 MEGA PACIFIC/ A13

Leave justices alone, senators tell Palace

Cha-cha remarks not in good taste –Gordon

By TJ Burgonio, and Michael Lim Ubac

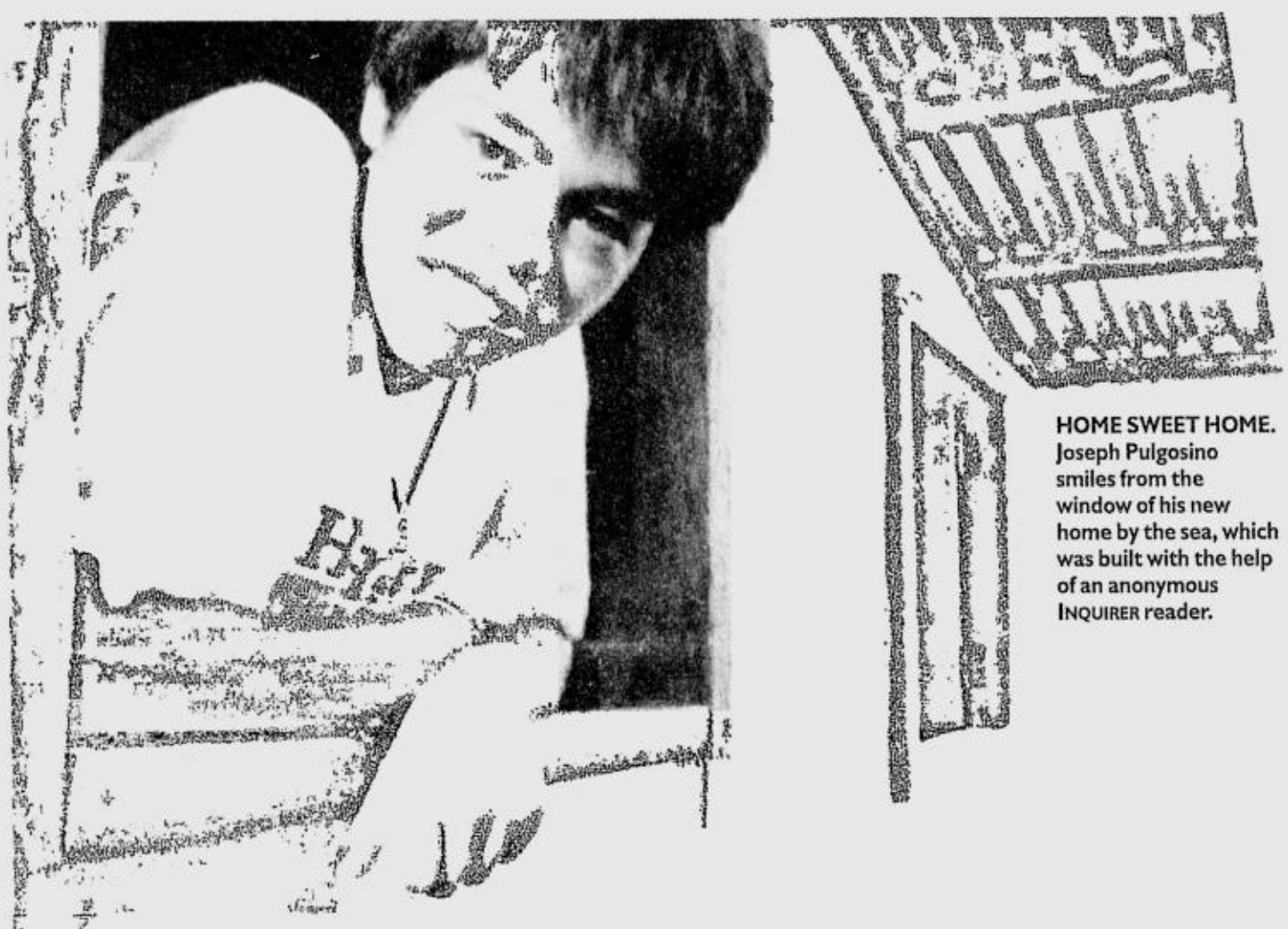
SENATORS YESTERDAY asked the Arroyo administration to stop pestering the Supreme Court as Malacañang's allies stepped up their calls for the high tribunal to listen to the "voice of the people" and allow the Constitution to be amended through the people's initiative mode.

The senators said President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia—the main backers of the signature campaign for Charter change (Cha-cha)—should leave the country's highest court alone as the justices prepared to debate the initiative petition.

The petition is backed by more than six million signatures, some of which—opponents claimed—were those of people long dead or of barangay residents finagled into signing with promises of Christmas "goodies" or outright cash.

"I think they (the President and her allies) should lead by example and not hector the Supreme Court," Sen. Richard Gordon said in an interview.

LEAVE/ A6



HOME SWEET HOME. Joseph Pulgosino smiles from the window of his new home by the sea, which was built with the help of an anonymous INQUIRER reader.

NIÑO JESUS Y ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Typhoon victim surprised with new house

By Joanna Los Baños
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—FOR THE PAST WEEKS, he had been a picture of hopelessness and misery.

Now, 15-year-old Joseph Pulgosino has reason to smile.

His house, washed away by Typhoon "Milenyo" on Sept. 27, has been rebuilt.

With the help of an anonymous person who read his story in the INQUIRER on Oct. 5, Pulgosino was able to rebuild his home, spending nothing.

"Last Saturday morning, three workers came here and brought materials to work on our house," he said, smiling.

"We asked the workers who sent them, but they said the person did not want to be identified," he said.

The house by the sea at Barangay Baybay was completed on Sunday.

"We did not transfer right away. We were a bit afraid to go back because of what happened," he told the INQUIRER.

Since the typhoon, Pulgosino and his family had been spending nights at the Legazpi Port Elementary School, used as an evacuation center. During the day, they would go back to their village so they would not miss their classes.

But on Monday, Pulgosino and his family spent their first night in their new 3x3-meter house.

Pulgosino said he knew nothing about

TYPHOON/ A13

Human costs of N. Korean nuclear blackmail

By Amando Doronila

AFTER MEETING AT THE WEEKend with China's special envoy to North Korea, Tang Jiaxuan, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice cast doubt on reports that North Korean leader Kim Jong-il had told Tang that he planned no further nuclear tests.

Tang met with Kim in Pyongyang last week when Kim was reported to have told Tang that he "regretted" the test of Oct. 9, which sent shock waves around the world and heightened fears of a nuclear arms race in Asia.

ANALYSIS

Rice told reporters that after her meeting with Tang, who had gone on a mission to Pyongyang to try and persuade Kim to avert a second test, she thought North Korea would "like to see an escalation of tension."

Last week, Rice went on a five-day trip to Asia to bolster support for a United Nations Security Council resolution imposing economic and weapons sanctions on North Korea for conducting the underground test.

Despite big power diplomatic efforts to defuse tensions over the test, her pessimistic report highlights the fact that Kim, the only Stalin-mold communist dictator left in the world today, was holding the world hostage with his nuclear bomb.

The reason the Philippines cannot be indifferent to the unpredictable and erratic mood of Kim is that it is in the same region as the Korean Peninsula, the most dangerous flash point for nuclear war today.

Our fate is tied to the whims or foreign policy aims of Kim, which have baffled even his allies, most of all China, which has unsuccessfully tried to curb his nuclear ambitions.

Kim, a man with a funny hairdo, has been internationally condemned as an "irrational madman," a "monster" or an "unstable menace," running a repres-

HUMAN/ A18

TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

MICHELLE Agbunag (left) and Rosie Carpio practice Grameen Bank's microlending philosophy in Pampanga.

Grameen spirit alive in Central Luzon

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

APALIT, PAMPANGA—TO MIchelle Agbunag who sells fried day-old chicks as a snack in her neighborhood, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus and his Grameen Bank (village bank) are names that she had only heard twice or thrice, and she's hard put recalling the occasions.

But it is his philosophy that has stuck, as real as the P200 she earns at the end of each day.

"One's debt is everybody's debt" was how she came to understand the microcredit program adopted from what Yunus

GRAMEEN/ A17

TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

FR. Ed Panlilio adopts Muhammad Yunus' microcredit program.

GUIMARAS OIL SPILL

Experts split on when to siphon fuel

DOJ suspects Solar hole tied to oil smuggling

By Leila B. Salaverria
(First of a series)

NO ONE CAN SAY PRECISELY how much remains of the 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel oil the MT Solar I was carrying when it sank in stormy seas on Aug. 11 off Guimaras Island, causing the worst environmental pollution in the nation's history.

I-TEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

Estimates range from zero to 80 percent of the cargo that was dumped into the water, says Rafael Coscolluela, President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser for Western Visayas. He oversees the ground operations of a task force set up to deal with the multifaceted problems the oil spill has spawned.

Given the amount of oil that has smeared 184 kilometers of

EXPERTS/ A12

WERE PIRATES PILFERING oil behind the mysterious hole caught by the cameras of a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) that was sent down in late August to film the sunken MT Solar I?

The Department of Justice believes that oil smuggling was partly to blame for the sinking of the tanker in rough weather off Guimaras on Aug. 11 while it was ferrying 2.1 million liters of oil for Petron Corp.

Justice Undersecretary Ernesto Pineda has directed the National Bureau of Investigation to track down the MV Bonifacio, the vessel seen alongside the Solar I before it set sail from its Iloilo shelter on that fateful day.

However, there is no record of the Bonifacio with the Maritime Industry Authority. The vessel was believed skippered at the time by a brother of So-

DOJ SUSPECTS/ A12

NOEL PABUALAN

CLEANUP workers stand behind the oil-smeared fence of a house on the shore of Nueva Valencia, Guimaras.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Eastern Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with passing light rains. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/22/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

CHEd memo may doom review centers

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MEMORANDUM BEING DRAFTED BY THE COMMISsion on Higher Education (CHEd) may soon spell the end for nursing review centers implicated in the June licensure examinations leakage.

The eight-page draft of the implementing rules and regulations proposes that review centers should not be involved in "controversies such as those pertaining to unethical and/or deceitful practice tending to degrade the integrity of licensure examinations, acceptable academic practices and traditions."

Copies of the draft are being circulated for comment to review center owners and schools, according to Jerome Mansibang, owner of Edgeworth Nursing Review School in Manila.

Mansibang, calling attention to the phrase "non-involvement in controversies," said should the new CHEd rules be implemented, they would deal a heavy blow to R.A. Gapuz, Pentagon and Inress review centers, which were at the center of the leakage scandal.

"It will definitely hit them," he told the INQUIRER in an interview Saturday.

The National Bureau of Investigation earlier found that reviewers at the three centers had made good use of the leakage to pass the June licensure exams.

Mansibang, who furnished the INQUIRER a copy of the draft, said the document was first shown around during a consultation meeting between the CHEd and review centers on Oct. 17 and Oct. 18. Another meeting is set on Oct. 25 and 26.

He said review centers had been told that no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted the implementing rules and regulations completed and put in place by next month, in time to have an effect on the nursing licensure exams in December.

The proposed new rules in essence seek to transfer the responsibility of running review centers to schools "with duly recognized courses/programs."

It defines review centers as those "operated and owned by a school with a recognized professional course/program offering to the public and/or to a specialized group for a fee a program of study that is intended to refresh and enhance the knowledge or competencies obtained in the formal school setting."

Tie-up or integrate

Review centers existing at the time Executive Order No. 566 was issued, the one which placed them under the CHEd, will be given three years to "tie up or be integrated" with a recognized school, according to the draft.

"In the alternative, they may convert as a school and apply for the course covered by the review subject to rules and regulations of the CHEd and the (Securities and Exchange Commission) with respect to the establishment of schools," it said.

The proposal puts a premium on track record, saying a school "must possess credibility and track record in terms of overall reputation and standing in the academic community."

Such a standing, it said, could be gleaned from awards and recognition received, performance in the licensure examinations, international linkages and recognition, and recognized reputation and integrity of school officials.

"Non-involvement in controversies" completes the requirement on track record, according to the proposed document.

Passing rate

Citing discussions during the consultation meetings, Mansibang said a review center would be required to have a passing rate of at least 8 percent and a school rating of at least 30 percent in order to continue operating.

A review center under a school will be covered by the 8-percent requirement, he said.

Mansibang said another important issue discussed was requiring a ratio of one teacher for every 100 reviewers.

He said that currently, a review center accepts as many as 10,000 students under one teacher. He said the centers made this possible by sitting reviewers in a spacious venue or by using broadcast facilities able to reach enrollees in other parts of the country.

"The situation is really terrible," he said. "The premium, for many review centers, is on profit. I'm happy because the proposed new rules focus on the quality of review centers in all disciplines."

Sue PRC, not us, tutors tell nursing graduates

By Alcuin Papa

DON'T SUE US, BADGER THE PROFESSIONal Regulation Commission (PRC) instead.

This was the reaction yesterday of the lawyer for the University of Santo Tomas (UST) nursing faculty to the threat of nursing students opposed to a retake of the controversial June nursing licensure exams that they would file charges against those seen delaying the oath-taking of new nurses.

Lawyer Pia Bersamin said the Alliance of New Nurses (ANN) should instead file charges against officials of the PRC for "bungling" the handling of the controversy.

"Why file charges against us? Why not file charges against the PRC? My clients were not the ones who made the mistakes here," Bersamin told the INQUIRER.

Renato Aquino, head of the ANN, said his group was preparing a string of civil action suits to lodge against the group that stalled the oath-taking of board passers. Aquino said ANN wanted to have the group that stalled the oath-taking "experience the kind of hardship we went through for the last four months."

Aquino identified their targets as Rene Luis Tadle, president of the University of Sto. Tomas College of Nursing, Earl Francis Sumile, president of the League of Concerned Nurses, and Michael Angelo Brant, president of Binuklod na Samahan ng mga Student Nurses.

Last Oct. 16, these three groups sought an injunction from the Court of Appeals that would halt the oath-taking of those who passed the June 2006 nursing board examinations. The CA had previously ruled that there should be a "partial retake" of the exam.

But Bersamin stressed that board passers on their side, as well as those who favored a retake, "also experienced a lot of hardships."

"They (Aquino's group) must understand that this is not at all directed against anyone. This is for the nursing profession in general," she added.

Bersamin also said that the recent Court of Appeals decision on the case showed that the "mistakes" were made by the PRC.

"The CA decision showed that the PRC went beyond the law by recomputing the grades of the students. Based on the decision, the court used the term 'grave abuse of discretion' to describe the acts of the PRC," she said.

Also, it was the PRC who "forgot there is a period of 15 days before the CA decision becomes final."

"May I remind Mr. Aquino that it was the PRC who last week said they would prepare the oath-taking. So who is really at fault here? Many were inconvenienced because of the PRC's actions. And we have been trying to point out that the PRC has been doing things wrong."

In the first place, Bersamin said, the PRC should not have released the results of the last board exams. "PRC has committed one mistake after another starting with the release of the results. They knew there was a leakage so they should have held the results until such a time when the (leakage) issue would have been resolved."

Palace set to welcome new Thailand leader

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG IS SET TO PROvide arrival honors for new Thai Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont who will be in Manila for a few hours.

Surayud's Manila visit is part of his familiarization tour of member-nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), embarked on more than three weeks after he was named Thai premier on Oct. 1 by the military junta that overthrew the government of former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Both the Philippines and Thailand are members of the 10-member Asean. Manila is hosting this year's Asean summit.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will welcome Surayud when he and his party pay a call at Malacañang at 4 p.m. today, where the delegation is expected to go immediately after his plane lands at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

The Thai premier will have a one-on-one meeting with President Arroyo. After the talks, officials from both countries will hold an expanded bilateral meeting, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Bunye had earlier said that Ms Arroyo had sent a "congratulatory message" to Surayud on Oct. 3, in effect signaling that Manila was giving its stamp of approval to the bloodless Thai coup last month and its aftermath.

At today's meeting, Bunye said, the President is expected to convey to Surayud the desire of many countries that Thailand move quickly to restore "political normalcy."

Earlier, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that it was only "normal" for Ms Arroyo as the head of state to welcome a new leader, more so today now that the Chief Executive has been designated chair of the Asean this year.

"It doesn't follow though that we agree with their methodologies in changing their leaders but we will have to respect their own processes," Ermita had also said. President Arroyo had regarded ousted leader Thaksin as an ally.

Prior to his Manila visit, Surayud, a former Thai military officer and privy councilor to Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej, visited Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos and Malaysia.

GMA off again, this time for China on Oct. 27

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo will be going away again, this time on a five-day trip to China, beginning Oct. 27.

Ms Arroyo, who left last month for a nine-day trip to Europe and the Americas, will visit Xiamen, Jin Jiang, Nanchang, Guilin and Nanning in the People's Republic of China.

The President will hold meetings with prominent Chinese business leaders in Xiamen, the Filipino community in Fujian province and university students in Nanchang.

Her last stop at Nanning will be the venue of the commemorative summit to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Asean-China partnership, which will be attended by leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

In Nanning, she is expected to hold bilateral talks with Chinese Premiere Wen Jiabao as well as conduct "both formal and pull-aside" talks with other Asean heads of state.

She will also attend the opening ceremony of the 3rd China-Asean Expo.

"The President will not only be representing the Philippines but will also be speaking as chair of Asean, which undoubtedly has helped China become an economic powerhouse as a result of the economic, political and cultural collaboration between Asean and China," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

The Philippines will host the 12th Asean summit in Cebu in December.

Bunye quoted the President as telling Chinese reporters who called on her last week that "China has surged onto the world stage and Asean has surged with it."

"The change has been profound, and Asean welcomes the deepening of ties through the Asean-China Free Trade Agreement. This agreement will be built on respect, reciprocity and pragmatism. It will help all of our economies grow and strengthen peace and security in the region," he quoted Ms Arroyo as saying in his View from the Palace column.

Christine O. Avendaño

Over 500 'shocks' followed Friday's quake

By Blan he S. Rivera

SOME 590 AFTERshocks have hit the country following the 5.2-magnitude earthquake on Friday, but most could not be felt by humans and none was strong enough to cause any damage or casualties, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said Sunday.

The moderate earthquake late Friday was centered 35 kilometers off Boac town between the islands of Mindoro and Marinduque, and was felt in outlying provinces as well as in Metro Manila, Phivolcs said.

The quake was followed by at least 590 aftershocks which started at 10:31 p.m. on Friday to 7:30 a.m. yesterday. But only six were felt by people in southern Luzon and some parts of Metro Manila, Phivolcs said.

No tsunamis

The earthquake, which was not strong enough to prompt a tsunami warning, and its aftershocks were set off by a movement of the Lubang Fault, one of the country's most active, according to Renato Solidum, Phivolcs director.

Solidum said the country could expect more aftershocks in the coming weeks, but many of these would not be felt.

"This is normal ... The unfelt shocks last for a few more weeks," he said.

The Phivolcs seismograph records an average 20 earthquakes daily, mostly unfelt and considered "insignificant events."

The strongest aftershocks were recorded at 6:09 a.m. on Saturday and 2:27 a.m. yesterday, both with magnitudes of 4.7. The 2:27 a.m. quake was felt at intensity 2 in Quezon City and Tagaytay City.

19-km deep

Another aftershock with a magnitude of 3.7 was recorded at 2:23 a.m. yesterday and was felt at intensity 3 in Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro, Tanauan and Lipa in Batangas, Lucban in Quezon and Taguig in Metro Manila.

But the quake, which occurred at a depth of 19 kilometers, was recorded by the US Geological Survey with a magnitude of 5.7.

"These aftershocks were located near the epicenter of the Oct. 20 10:30 p.m. earthquake," Phivolcs said in its bulletin.

Three aftershocks were initially felt following the moderate quake with the first recorded at 1:27 a.m. on Friday with a magnitude of 3.7, and at 10:53 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. Saturday with magnitudes 4.6 and 3.8, respectively.

"The Lubang Fault is a small fault but the plates move frequently," Solidum said in a phone interview yesterday. *With reports from Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon, AP and AFP*

Binay hits Ermita over remarks; Echeverri cleared

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Norman Bordadora

SECURE IN HIS POST AFTER A COURT REprieve, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay yesterday lashed out at Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita for justifying Malacanang's suspension order against him and 17 other local officials last week.

Binay, president of the United Opposition (UNO), said the charge he was maintaining "ghost employees" had no basis.

He said the case was like "accusing someone of theft without saying what was stolen" as the complaint, filed by political rival Roberto Brillante, did not identify who the alleged ghost employees were.

"You were not right, Mr. Executive Secretary. You should stop saying that you were right in suspending me when the fact is you acted even without proof of [the case] being submitted and reviewed," said Binay in a statement yesterday.

Ermita had said he "cannot see what big mistake" the Office of the President committed when it ordered the suspension of Binay, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and the city's 16 councilors on Tuesday pending investigation of the administrative complaint lodged against them.

Only a temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by the Court of Appeals on Thursday defused the tension at the Makati City Hall, which Binay had refused to vacate.

Binay said the suspension clearly constituted "political harassment" and saw the President's hand behind it. Ermita, however, said the action against Binay was just part of duty and legal procedure.

Binay once again scored the complaint that caused his three-day suspension, saying Brillante had been convicted of committing libel against him.

"Now, they face a potentially embarrassing situation should he fail to produce evidence," said the mayor.

Also yesterday, the INQUIRER learned that the legal service of the Department of Interior and Local Government had recommended the exoneration from administrative liability of Caloocan City Mayor Recom Echeverri, charged with grave abuse of authority for the cancellation of a parking contract with Jadewell Parking Systems Inc.

Highly placed sources at the DILG said the recommendation of the legal service was on the desk of Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno for his signature and transmittal to Malacañang.

Reached in Cagayan de Oro City, where he was attending an antiterrorism summit, Puno said: "I cannot anticipate the findings of the report that will be submitted to Malacañang."

However, he said that the administrative charge against Echeverri was the only one still pending in connection with the mayor's actions against Jadewell.

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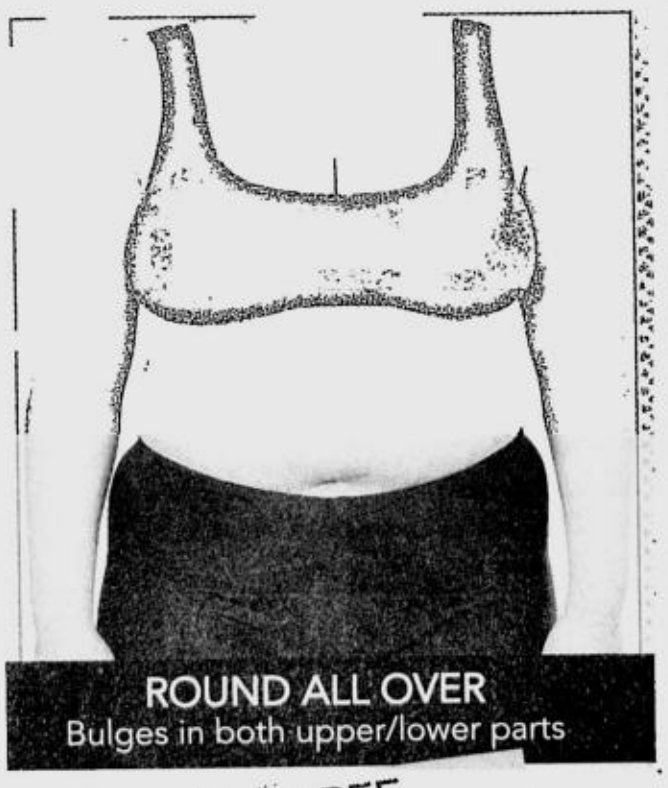

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For this priest, sex 'a good thing,' Church made it 'bad'

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THERE ARE A HANDFUL OF Catholic priests in the Philippines who will tell you sex is a "good thing." A few will even admit it's the Church's fault for making sex "a bad thing."

Teachers and pastors here met one of these outspoken priests last week during a training retreat sponsored by the Institute of Women's Studies that was devoted to gender sensitivity.

Some of the participants appeared surprised to hear a priest reveal how the Church had propagated sexism in Philippine society.

Fr. Percy Juan Bacani, a moral theologist and superintendent of high schools operated by the Diocese of Baguio, said the Catholic doctrine on "guilt" had very much eroded Filipinos' appreciation for, and even enjoyment of, sex.

The Church, he said, is a male-dominated power center where the female plays a far diminutive role. It is this ideological foundation which explains why Filipino women today are less valued than women of an ancient Filipino culture where they were revered.

Women who shine in Catholic societies only achieve their ambition by imbibing the male culture, or by sustaining the myth "that the only good women are virgins," Bacani said.

President 'man-like'

President Macapagal-Arroyo, he said, is more "man-like" in her shrewdness at politics.

More were surprised when the priest suggested that the devoted turn back to the spiritual nature of indigenous Filipino worship in order to unlearn the Christian dogma that has made some religious Filipinos abhor sex.

Bacani cautioned his audience that his lessons about religion and sex were based on "my struggles to be a man in the right way."

It is an ongoing struggle, he later told the INQUIRER.

Bacani, 49, is one of the outspoken members of the "Missionaries for Jesus," a group of Filipino priests who broke away from the Society of Jesus, citing "principled" issues.

He said only 10 to 15 priests in the country had been advocating gender rights aggressively since 2004 when sex scandals implicating priests surfaced.

Evaluation of sex concepts

Bacani said sex scandals fueled a campaign among young priests to evaluate Church-dictated concepts of sexuality, but the hierarchy discouraged them.

Society's strong reaction to these scandals were too brief, he said, citing a local priest who was convicted by a Baguio court of sexual misconduct but who still won the mayoral race in a Benguet town.

Bacani said he had been asking Baguio Bishop Carlito Cenzon to allow him to counsel local priests about sexuality, using his radical module, but has yet to receive a response.

"I taught some priests about gender rights, and I spoke about it in my lectures at a seminary, but some seminarians protested the direction these discussions would take," Bacani said.

A pastor challenged some of Bacani's core message by stressing that the country progressed better under the Church compared to the period when Filipinos' revered a matriarchal leadership.

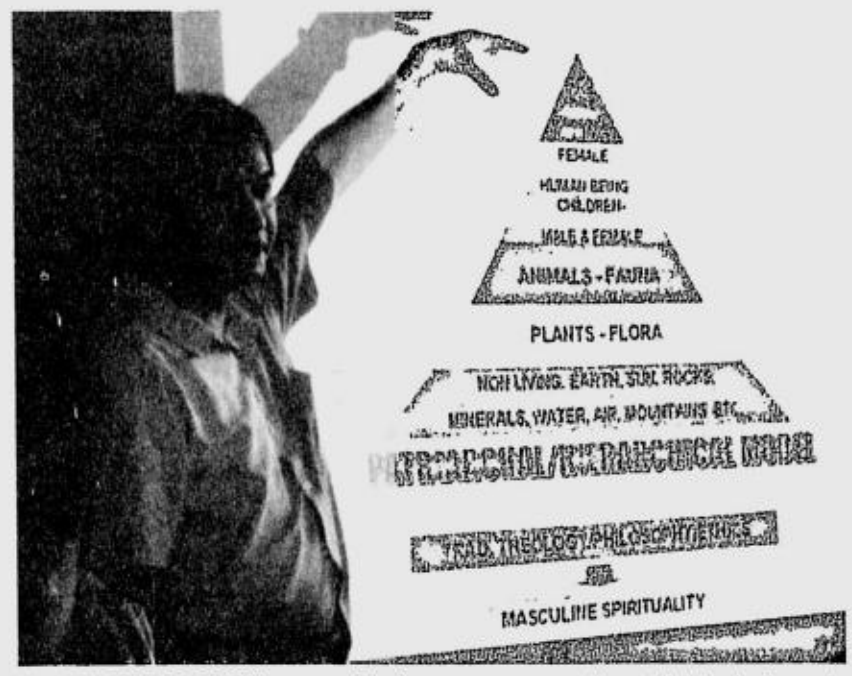
Subverting age-old principles

Raymundo Rovillos, a history professor at the University of the Philippines-Baguio, described Bacani's advocacy as "a hard path" and said he was subverting centuries-old principles.

Bacani said being tolerant of all sexual preferences meant accepting homosexuality.

He said that while the Church acknowledged homosexual orientation, it frowned on homosexual acts. He said this view was deceptive.

Modern Christianity, he said, had fashioned its concepts about life, society, women and power around the patriarchy or a society run by males.



FR. PERCY BACANI illustrates his discourse on sexuality, which he believes is formed by the teachings of the Church. VINCENT CABREZA/NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Historically, Bacani said, the Church's ideological foundation is defined by the gender of Jesus Christ, who is male.

The Church's language reveals this bias, he said, because God is always "The Father," and the Church's roster of saints is composed mostly of men.

Patriarchal conceit

Sexuality also follows a patriarchal conceit, Bacani said.

"The male orientation is to procreate ... Masturbation and homosexuality are taboo because these sexual acts do not produce children," he said.

Virginity is a doctrine that has no real value to society, but it persists under Church teachings, the priest said.

Bacani said this had made society frown at men who are aroused by a naked woman. Real sin, he said, takes place when a man obsesses and objectifies the woman.

He said his lessons were not attacks on Christianity, but were discussion points for the faithful "because we need to revisit our religion ... we need to review our faith."

The Episcopal Church is closer to emancipating all gender when it allows homosexuals and women to become part of its clergy, Bacani said.

Cordillera more advanced

He said indigenous Filipino concepts in the Cordillera taught the faithful about sex far better than theological books could because Cordillera society allowed women a say in communal decisions and were not afraid of nudity.

Rovillos said Cordillera women had a far healthier concept of sex.

"They do not have a word for 'rape' or 'incest' because that just never happens. But rape and incest now occur in the modern Cordillera world, and that is tragic," he said.

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Correction

IN THE OCT. 22 ISSUE, a story on Page A3—"3 aftershocks felt after 5.2-quake jolts islands"—misstated the location of San Pablo City. San Pablo City is in Laguna—not Batangas.

* * *

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 23, 2006
29th Week in Ordinary Time
John Capistrano

1st Reading: Eph 2:1-10
Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd spoke to Jesus, "Master, tell my brother to share with me the family inheritance." He replied, "My friend, who has appointed me as your judge or your attorney?" Then Jesus said to the people, "Be on your guard and avoid every kind of greed, for even though you have many possessions, it is not that which gives you life."

And Jesus continued with this story, "There was a rich man and his land had produced a good harvest. He thought: 'What shall I do? For I am short of room to store my harvest.' So this is what he planned:' I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones to store all this grain, which is my wealth. Then I may say to myself: My friend, you have a lot of good things put by for many years. Rest, eat, drink and enjoy yourself.' But God said to him: 'You fool! This very night your life will be taken from you; tell me who shall get all you have put aside?' This is the lot of the one who stores up riches instead of amassing for God."

Commentary

We once were dead, doing evil, living unjustly, selfishly, living under the anger of God. But we were/are loved mercifully and we've been brought back to life (resurrection-baptism) and we have a place with Jesus. Always there is the gift offered and we are being made into God's work of art! Jesus in the gospel deals with the details of inheritance, family disputes, greed, selfishness and demands that cause divisions. And Jesus tries to show us the larger reality that we live in and are called to remember. Where do we put our treasures? We are God's treasures—what are we doing with our lives now?

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Call centers no riskier to workers than other jobs, says labor leader

By Leila B. Salaverria and Jerome Aning

A LABOR GROUP HAS DOWNPLAYED THE health hazards posed by call center work schedules on their employees, saying many other professions also have nocturnal work hours and risky environments, but measures could be taken to avoid illness.

"While there may be some work-related health risks associated with call centers, these are not necessarily limited to the (call center) setting; many occupations tend to expose workers to certain health hazards," said TUCP secretary general Ernesto Herrera.

The TUCP said the health risks from call center schedules which require most employees to work at night, while a concern, could be addressed by the enforcement of measures to prevent illness and the provision of proper health care.

"This is not to say the health risks in call centers are not an issue. They are a concern. In the same manner health issues in other occupations are a concern," Herrera said in a statement.

Herrera cited as an example airline crews who tend to develop health issues related mostly to their staying awake across varying time zones and from standing up for long periods of time, especially during long-haul flights.

He said nurses and other hospital workers were also at risk, being exposed and vulnerable to infectious diseases.

Even seamen are extremely vulnerable to depression, Herrera said, but many Filipinos still want to join the profession because of the high compensation.

Earlier, the Department of Labor and Employment's Occupational Safety and Health Center warned that personnel of the booming call center industry risk suffering from anxiety, stress, muscoloskeletal disorder and eye problems, aside from hearing problems.

These are caused by continuous telephone and computer use, long hours of sitting, a cold and noisy workplace, and the need to meet quotas.

Medical experts have also warned that call center employees run the risk of contracting ulcers, obesity, stress leading to depression, tense muscles, insomnia, hormonal imbalance, loss of concentration and over-fatigue.

According to Herrera, industries that pose health risks should provide proper health care to their workers.

"This just underscores the need for employers and staff in all job settings to purposely take adequate preventive measures in order to lessen the risks, and to make sure disorders are promptly diagnosed and treated," he said.

He also noted that call center workers generally enjoyed good health care benefits, on top of their competitive pay.

Employees entitled to pay on Eid'l Fitr

WORKERS WILL BE ENTITLED TO COMPENsation on Oct. 24, a regular holiday in observance of the Muslim feast of Eid'l Fitr, regardless of whether they report for work or not, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

The DOLE released the guidelines for the compensation of employees during the holiday and Labor Secretary Arturo Brion reminded employers they need to follow them.

Based on the guidelines, an employee will receive his regular compensation even if he does not report for work on that day, and even if the day is his rest day.

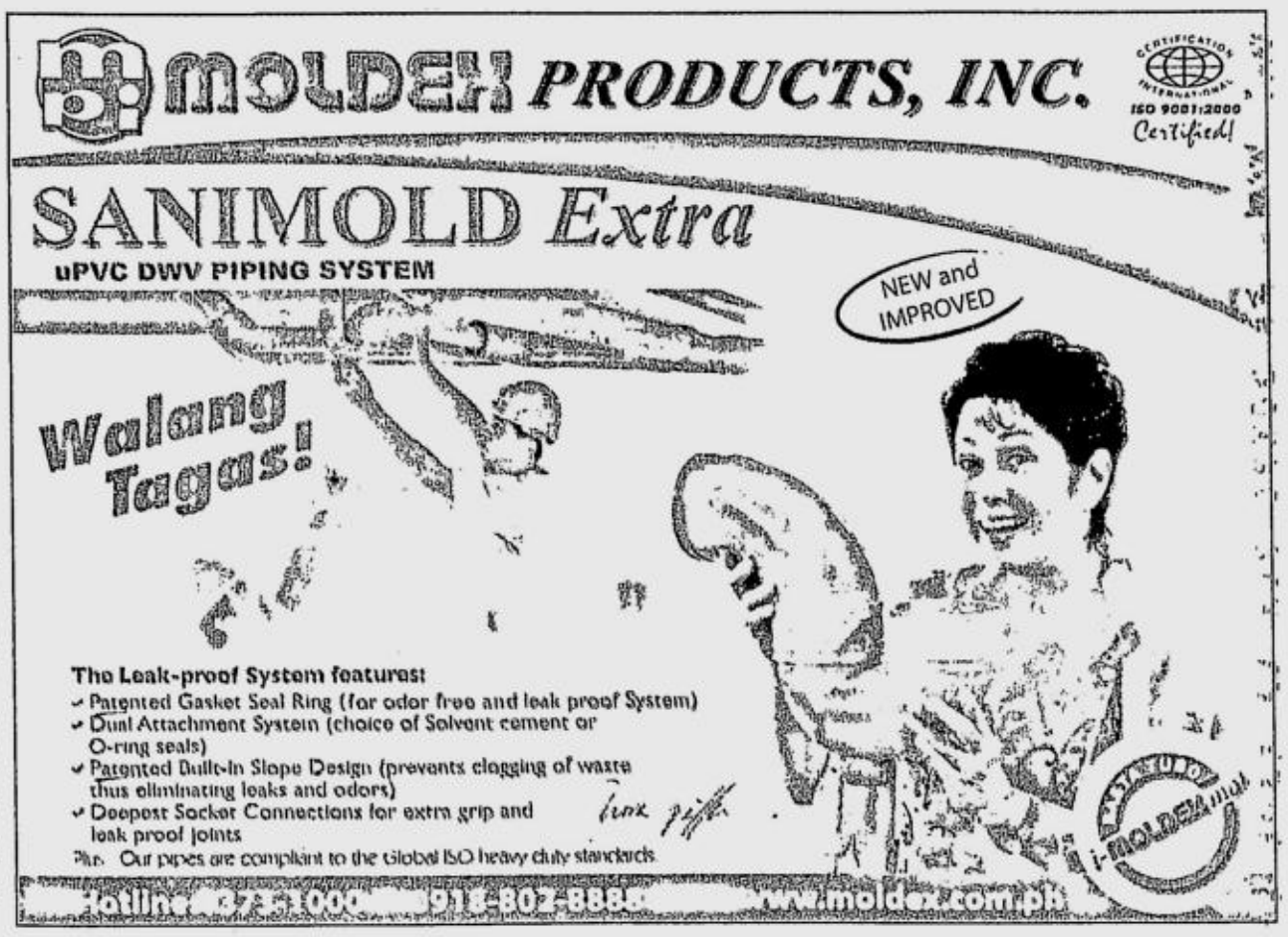
If the day is a regular workday and the employee reports for duty, he is entitled to 200 percent of his regular wage. If he works over eight hours, he should receive the hourly rate for that day, which is 200 percent of his regular wage divided by eight, plus 30 percent of that hourly rate.

But if the holiday falls on the worker's rest day and he still reports for duty, he should receive 260 percent of his regular wage. For overtime work, he should get the hourly rate, which is 260 percent of his regular wage divided by eight, plus 30 percent of that rate.

President Macapagal-Arroyo declared Tuesday a holiday throughout the country in observance of Eid'l Fitr, which is celebrated by the Muslim world at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Eid'l Fitr was declared a regular holiday to promote cultural understanding and integration, and to give the Filipino nation a chance to join Muslims in the celebration, she said.

Leila B. Salaverria



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Leave justices alone, senators tell Palace

From page A1

He was referring to Ms Arroyo's remarks on Thursday in favor of Charter change before an international conference of jurists, including Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban. Speaker Jose de Venecia made the same plea but in more impassioned terms before the same body the following day.

"It's not in good taste," Gordon said, adding that De Venecia's call for the justices to change history by approving the people's initiative was contemptuous of and disrespectful to the court.

Palace strategem

Panganiban told reporters last week that the Supreme Court, which is going on a 10-day recess from Oct. 30, will start to deliberate on the initiative this week.

The amendments being proposed under the people's initiative mode would strike down the country's presidential form of government and set up a parliamentary government with Ms Arroyo still at the helm.

Cha-cha opponents said this was a Malacañang strategem to ensure Ms Arroyo's political survival at least until 2010 and allow her to bury for good the so-called "Hello Garci" tape scandal centered on allegations that she cheated her way to victory in the 2004 election—a charge she denies.

A top presidential defender, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, believes the Supreme Court should give more weight to the people's voice than to the lack of an enabling law to implement the initiative mode.

'People are sovereign'

"Certainly, the people's voice is the higher authority," Gonzalez said in a phone interview. "The people are always sovereign. The issue of an enabling law is secondary here."

Gonzalez also said: "The Supreme Court is a creation of the Constitution, which is a creation of the people. Everything depends on the people."

Presidential allies in the House of Representatives were not too far behind.

"The issues are too serious, too grave and too important to be decided on technicalities," said House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles.

Nograles pointed out that even critics and those in the political opposition were agreed on the need for Charter change and differed only on the way of doing it.

Rep. Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur said: "We urge our justices to acknowledge the overwhelming clamor for PI (people's initiative)."

Cagas, however, added that he believed in the justices' sense of integrity and in "their ability to weather any pressure."

Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara said the high court should resolve ambiguities in the law "in favor of the people's right to propose amendments since it is a right given to the people by the Constitution."

Ms Arroyo's political adviser, Gabriel Claudio, said yesterday there was "enough basis for optimism" that the high court would rule in favor of the people's initiative.

"It's too difficult and painful to contemplate a scenario of a failed people's initiative," Claudio said in a phone interview.

"This is beyond partisan politics," he added.

Claudio said so much was at stake in the campaign to change the Charter, including the country's future and "prospects of institutionalizing the vehicle for economic and political reforms."

Political lobbying

Gordon, who chairs the committee on constitutional amendments, and maverick administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said that De Venecia's appeal to the Supreme Court justices to alter history by approving the people's initiative smacked of "desperation."

"That's political lobbying. It does not give due respect to the Supreme Court ... You don't go to the Supreme Court and tell it to approve the initiative. It's a contemptuous conduct as far as I'm concerned," Gordon said.

Senator Arroyo agreed.

"That Speaker De Venecia should publicly and unabashedly urge the Supreme Court without any qualms to decide the initiative case favorably to the proponents strangely before a gathering of international jurists betrays an act of desperation," Arroyo said.

The President and De Venecia aired their views on Cha-cha a few days after Chief Justice Panganiban admitted that the court was getting some pressure from interested parties in the people's initiative case. Ms Arroyo said amending the Charter was a step toward building a modern Philippines.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, a Charter change advocate, echoed a colleague's prediction that the Supreme Court vote on the initiative would be a close one, but stressed that the arguments against it far outweighed the arguments for it.

Angara said that the arguments that the initiative petition was not backed by an enabling law and would in effect rewrite the Constitution far outweighed the claim that it was supported by millions of signatures.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. voiced confidence that the justices would see through the initiative's intent, which he claimed was to abolish a critical Senate that has played a part in the system of checks and balances.

Senator Arroyo earlier predicted that the high court's vote would be split, either 8-7 or 9-6, but there was no telling where it would go.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. predicted that the resolution of the issue would drag on and leave little time for the conduct of a plebiscite which the administration hopes to hold on Jan. 15.

Commenting on Ms Arroyo's statements favoring Cha-cha, Pimentel said: "The people should tell her she is not a czarina who can issue edicts as her tarot cards dictate. She is supposed to be the head of a democratic government that rules only according to the people's will." *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Leila B. Salaverria*

Not skipping social functions

By Carmela Reyes
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF MALOLOS—DESPITE JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez's advice for him to steer clear of social functions, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban on Sunday graced the 80th birthday celebration of a friend here.

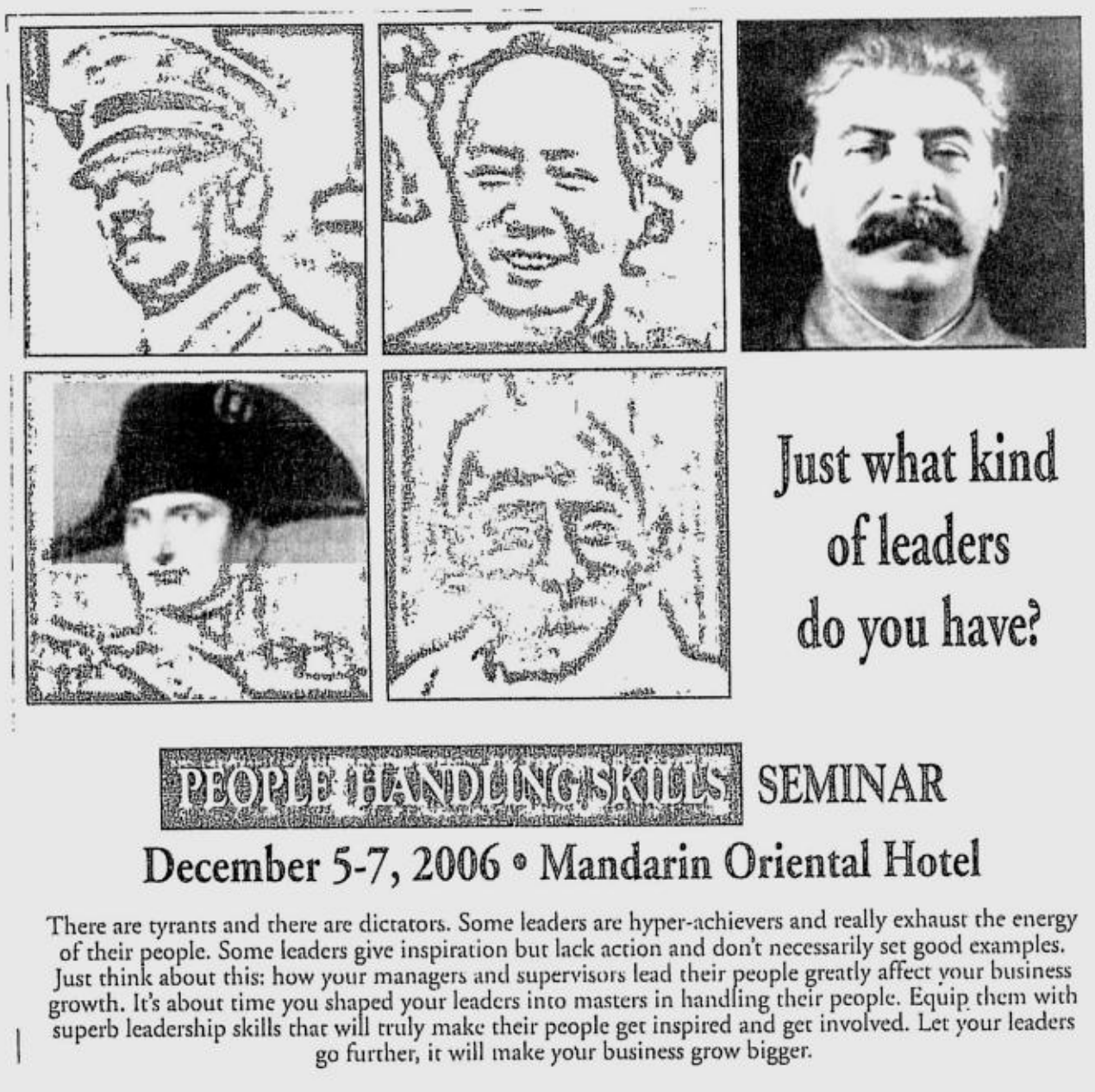
Panganiban, accompanied by his wife, went to the Bulacan State University hostel as a special guest of retired Court of Appeals Associate Justice Jose de la Rama, founder and dean of the Marcelo H. del Pilar College of Law at BSU.

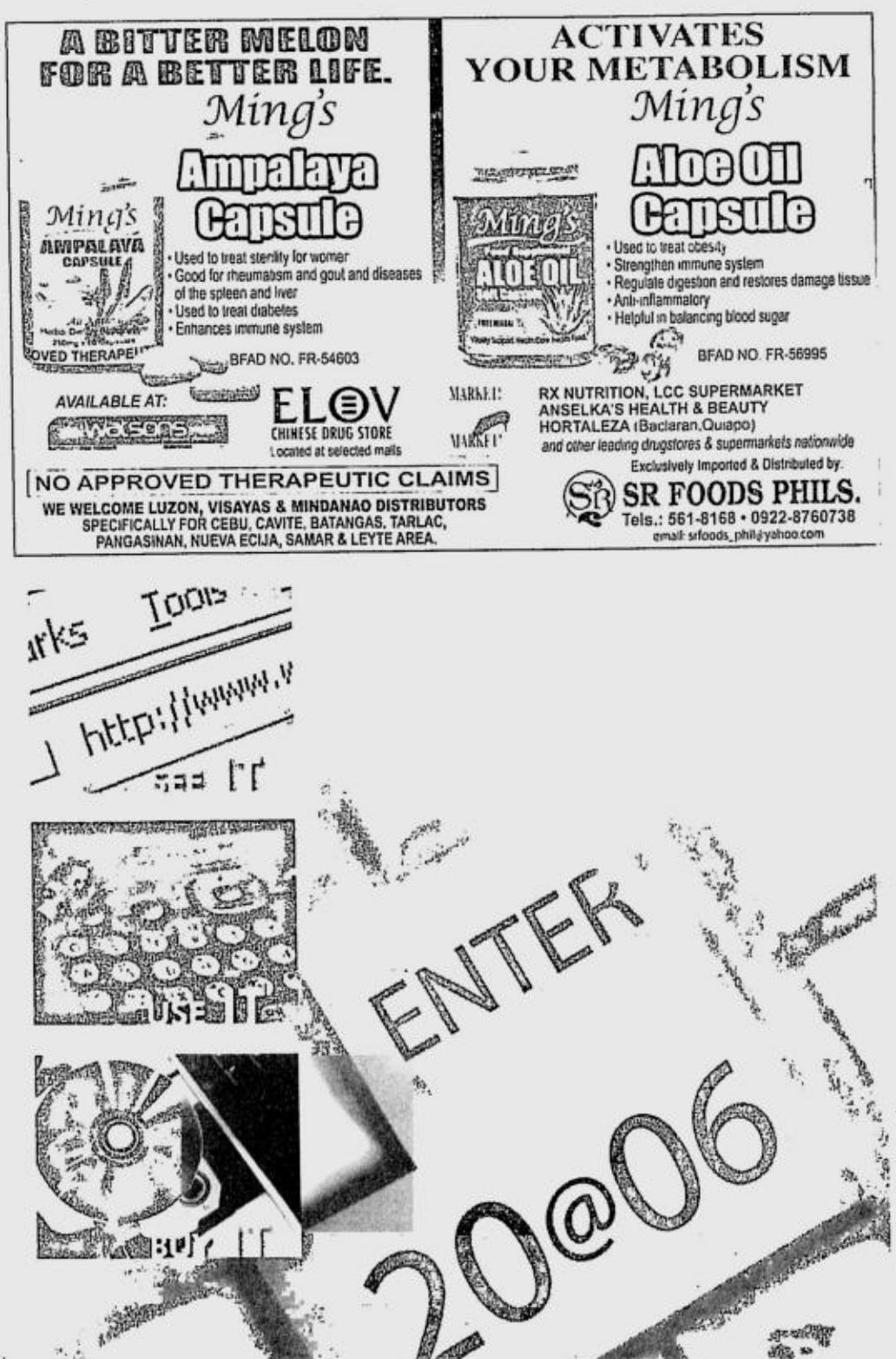
Panganiban gave his reasons for coming.

"This occasion is important to our friends, especially to someone like our former CA Justice De la Rama, that's why we are here today," Panganiban, speaking in Filipino, told a crowd composed mostly of lawyers and judges.

Panganiban declined to comment on Gonzalez's statement that he should stop attending social functions to avoid the "pressure" being exerted on him over the people's initiative issue pending in the Supreme Court.

Panganiban arrived after 10 a.m., sat at the main table reserved for special guests, had lunch and left at about 1 p.m.





WALKING THEIR TALK
Thousands participate in the Walk Against Breast Cancer that was held yesterday at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City to raise awareness of the disease that continues to claim more victims. *(See related story in Metro, Page A24)*
RYAN LIM

Expert warns AIDS on rise

DUMAGUETE CITY—The steady increase in new cases of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome infections in the country could usher in a second wave of the disease in the Philippines and in Asia, an expert on HIV/AIDS warned.

Gladys Rio-Malayang, executive director of the Quezon City-based Health and Development Institute, said new cases of HIV/AIDS surged by 150 percent to 190 cases this year.

"There is a low level of awareness about the ways of preventing and the ways of transmission because to many people, AIDS is not an issue," she said, speaking on Sunday at a forum organized by the Silliman University Church.

HIV is spread when blood, semen or vaginal fluids from an infected person enter another person's body, usually through sexual contact, blood transfusion or from sharing needles when injecting drugs.

Department of Health figures indicate that as of December 2005, there were 11,168 cases of HIV and AIDS in the Philippines. Of this number, 86 percent were transmitted sexually. ***Alex Pal, Inquirer Visayas***

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"Baka makabili ng isang jeep na pampasahero, hindi pa napla-plano yung iba. Para akong nanalo sa lotto, pero mas madali ito kaysa sa lotto kasi text lang tapos mura pa! Kaya lagi kayong magtext kapag nareceive nyo yung resibo nyo."

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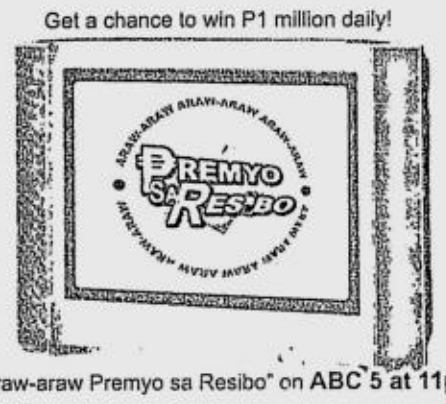

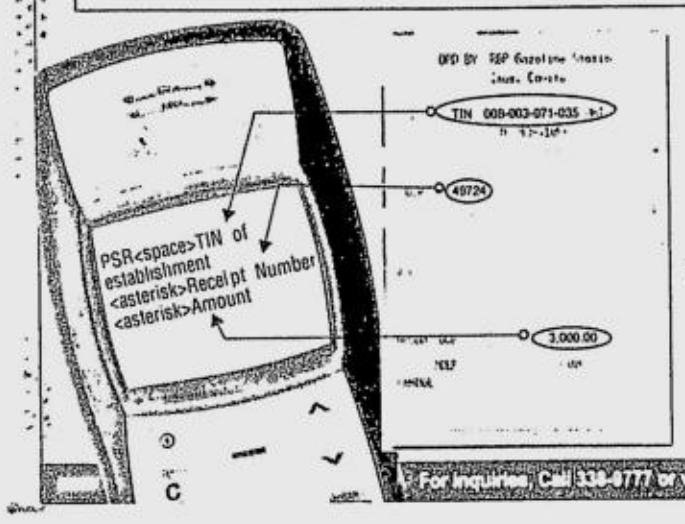

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Barangays tapped in fight vs terror

By Blanche S. Rivera

SAYING TERRORISM HAS ASSUMED A LOcal character, the national government is tapping local governments, particularly the country's 41,000 barangays, to lead in the fight against terrorism alongside the police and military.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said peace and order councils down to the barangay level would be mobilized to help in the government's antiterrorism campaign by keeping an updated list of their communities' inhabitants and reporting anything suspicious.

"Terrorism has assumed a local character. We should all get involved in keeping our country safe from this global security threat," Puno said in a recent forum with local government executives of Mindanao.

The Department of Interior and Local Government said 37,534 of the country's 41,972 barangays had already created their own barangay peace and order committees (BPOC) as of the weekend.

Unified plan

He urged Mindanao, which has long been suffering from the rebel secessionist movement and the communist insurgency, to draw up a unified plan to fight terrorism on the island.

Puno said that with terrorists becoming bolder in staging attacks in Mindanao, "governors and mayors of the island should now lead the fight against terrorism by becoming actively involved in ongoing efforts to mobilize the communities against this global scourge."

Three explosions that police blamed on the Southeast Asian regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front rocked Mindanao two weeks ago, killing six people and injuring two dozen in North Cotabato.

Mindanao has a total of 10,042 barangays, with 1,903 in the Zamboanga peninsula, 2,020 in Northern Mindanao, 1,158 in Davao, 1,194 in the Socksargen region, 1,308 in the Caraga region and 2,459 in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Force multipliers

Puno said Mindanao's local governments could tap their barangay "tanod" (watchmen) to be members of civilian volunteer organizations (CVO), groups of civilians that would be trained and deployed by the Philippine National Police as "force multipliers" in the campaign to wipe out the threats to security.

He said Executive Order No. 546, which makes the PNP a co-equal partner with the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the anti-insurgency campaign, also authorizes the use of barangay leaders as force multipliers to strengthen the government fight against terrorism and other security threats.

Prevention

"We can fight terrorism not only by reinforcing the operational and logistical capability of our police and military but also by preventing its occurrence through simple information-gathering and monitoring," the DILG chief said.

Puno, who also chairs the National Police Commission, also urged the local governments to include in their annual budgets funds for the operational and logistical support of police units and CVOs.

He said the BPOCs would help forge closer partnerships among the police, military and the local communities.

Intensify hunt for engineers' abductors, PNP chief orders

By Alcuin Papa

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR General Oscar Calderon yesterday ordered police tracking down the abductors of four people working on a United States-funded project in Parang, Sulu, to leave "no stone unturned" in their hunt.

The four, three engineers and their driver, were kidnapped last Tuesday but managed to escape on Friday.

Calderon gave the order to Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) police head. The engineers were Romeo Rivera, Reynaldo Rubio and Larry Bautista, and their driver was Amarano Lapus.

Goltiao had earlier identified the alleged abductors as Adzar Isdani, Bong Iskandal and a certain Anan. He said the appropriate charges would be filed against them in court.

Abu Sayyaf faction

The police and military believe the suspects are members of an Abu Sayyaf faction headed by Itting Sailani, the main suspect in the killing of former INQUIRER photo correspondent Gene Boyd Lumawag more than a year ago.

The victims are now back in Manila but promised to return to Sulu to continue working on their project.

"It is unfortunate that this happened. But the good part is that the victims are safe," Calderon said in a statement to the media.

The four were kidnapped by their own bodyguards for still unknown reasons. They managed to escape as their captors slept.

Troops tracking the kidnappers spotted the four victims walking in a village near the boundaries of Parang and Indanan towns, according to Col. Reynaldo Sealana, commander of an army brigade on Jolo island.

High-profile kidnappings

The victims, according to reports, were held somewhere in Barangay Malaon, a village located between Indanan and Parang.

The Abu Sayyaf Group has been involved in past high-profile kidnappings, including the 2001 Dos Palmas abduction of tourists, mostly Europeans and Americans, that ended in the deaths of some of the hostages.

The military is currently conducting operations against Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani in Sulu. Janjalani is said to be aiding two Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah leaders, Dulmatin and Umar Patek, wanted for the 2002 Bali bombings that killed more than 200 people, mostly Australian tourists.

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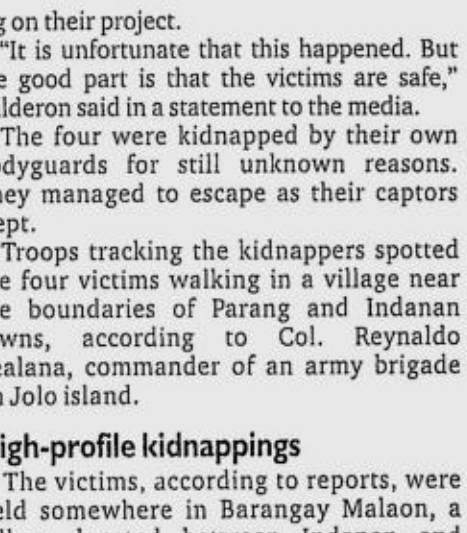

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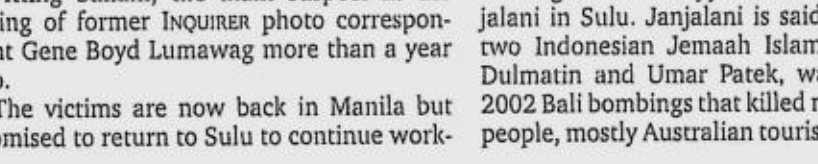

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Marine, Scout Ranger 'plotters' fate known Tuesday, says Esperon

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By Alcuin Papa and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY IS SET TO RELEASE ON TUESday the results of its investigation into the involvement of 38 officers from the Marines and Scout Rangers in the aborted Feb. 24 coup plot, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said yesterday.

The results of the probe will determine if the accused officers led by former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, Marine Col. Arnel Querubin and former Scout Ranger chief Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim will undergo court-martial.

If the Judge Advocate General's Office (JAGO) finds enough evidence against the officers, they will be tried for violations of the Articles of War.

Esperon said the results would have come out earlier but were "delayed" because the JAGO wanted to give the accused officers enough time to answer charges they had planned to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Weekend review

"Our Judge Advocate General's Office was supposed to come out with the results before the previous week ended. But they had to review it over the weekend. So we expect it to come out by Tuesday," he said.

Esperon stressed he would make the final decision on whether or not to constitute a general court-martial against the officers.

"The final approval will be from me. Upon receipt of the report ... then I will, we will form the general court-martial," he said.

Asked if he would reverse the Jago should it recommend that the officers not be tried, Esperon said: "I can, I can, I can."

In the past, Esperon had said that regardless of the results of the Jago probe, he would order the convening of a general court-martial to try the officers, saying that as far as he was concerned, there was enough evidence against the officers.

Overwhelming evidence

On Oct. 16, Esperon gave broad hints that he would overrule any recommendation to absolve the accused officers.

"It looks like that. There's overwhelming evidence, unless I'm disproved," he said.

A total of 25 Scout Ranger officers led by Lim and 13 Marine officers led by Miranda and Querubin were implicated in the alleged coup plot.

A military fact-finding panel earlier said Lim and Querubin, with Miranda's knowledge, planned to lead a mass withdrawal of support from President Arroyo during the 20th anniversary celebration of the 1986 People Power revolt on Feb. 24.

Esperon recently said Lim's videotaped declaration of withdrawal of support, which surfaced, was "incontrovertible" evidence against him.

Meanwhile, a group of retired senior military officers claimed the threat of a "bloody conflict" within the military has not died down. They said the legitimacy of Ms Arroyo's presidency remain in question.

"The warning sound is so strong and so foreboding it is too difficult to ignore," said the statement issued by retired Brig. Gen. Cesar Go, Brig. Gen. Vicente Belo, Col. Leonardo Odonio, Col. Guillermo Cunanan and Col. Mariano Santiago.

"They (soldiers) are convinced, as majority of the Filipinos are, that the person who occupies the presidency has no right to that position."

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Gov't workers breaking uniform law–solon

By Michael Lim Ubac

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS and employees from the President on down should be wearing uniforms made of indigenous fabrics derived from the abaca, banana and pineapple plants, an administration lawmaker said yesterday.

Rep. Luis Villafuerte of Camarines Sur said that up to now, most agencies of the government had not complied with the 2004 statute mandating the use by all public officials and employees of uniforms containing tropical fabrics abundantly available locally.

RA 9242

In House Resolution No. 705 filed last week, Villafuerte urged Congress to comply with Republic Act No. 9242, the "Act Prescribing the Use of Philippine Tropical Fabrics for the Uniforms of Public Officials and Employees."

The law covers all executives and personnel in all the branches of government, including state-owned and controlled corporations, regardless of whether they are elective, appointed, permanent, temporary or casual employees.

Under RA 9242, all fabrics to be used for the uniforms of public officials and employees should have natural fibers from the abaca, banana or pineapple plant in them. The fibers, when mixed with silk or polyester, and after testing by the Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Textile Research Institute, should meet the standard requirements of composition and characteristics for uniforms.

'No excuse'

Asked about the usually suit-clad Vice President Noli de Castro, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Senate President Manuel Villar, the lawmaker said: "There is absolutely no excuse for noncompliance. It is incumbent upon the highest officials of the House of Representatives and the Senate to lead by example and to promptly see to it that both chambers adhere to the law."

Senators Joker Arroyo, Aquilino Pimentel and Ramon Magsaysay, and House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, are among the congressional leaders who habitually wear a barong Tagalog which is usually made of local fabrics and is considered formal wear.

Villafuerte said strictly following the law on uniforms would create new consumption that would give local farmers more business, drive the growth of our highly labor-intensive textile and garment industry, and spur employment.

"This core business can provide a foundation for the sound and orderly development of our tropical fabrics industry, which has the huge potential of creating up to 500,000 new jobs from billions of pesos in fresh investments," Villafuerte said.

"This is also about giving preferential treatment to domestic products over imported or smuggled ready-to-wear clothing or foreign fabrics," he said.

P8B yearly

Villafuerte noted that the government shells out P4,000 per employee per year for the uniforms of about 2 million state workers.

"This is supposed to enable employees to procure at least four new uniforms each year. Our head count in national offices is over 1.2 million and in local governments, more than 800,000. This means all agencies combined spend at least P8 billion yearly for the clothing or uniform allowances of their staff," Villafuerte said.

"This is a lot of recurring demand that can propel the modernization of our garments and textile industry so it can compete even more aggressively in the world market," he said.

300 firms can't pay new wage

DESPITE THE BRIGHT economic picture being painted by the Arroyo administration, at least 300 companies have applied for exemption from having to pay the newly mandated P350 daily minimum wage, claiming "financial distress."

National Wages and Productivity Commission officer in charge, executive director Esther Guirao, said these were the companies that beat the deadline on Wednesday for the filing of applications for wage exemption.

Guirao said most of the applicants were small and medium-size enterprises, engaged in the retail trade, and employing at least 10 people. Many companies said they were seeking relief from setbacks brought on by the recent calamities.

"The exemption offers only temporary relief; even if the application is granted, these companies would still be required to give the minimum wage after a year," Guirao explained.

Also, their claims would still have to be screened, she added.

Guirao said that last year, about 600 companies in Metro Manila applied for exemption but only 17 percent were granted by the commission.

The Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board in the National Capital Region raised the minimum daily wage to P350 on July 11. *Jerome Aning*

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Environmentalists protest waste pact with Japan

By Blanche S. Rivera

ENVIRONMENTALists are raising a howl over the recently signed Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), saying this would allow the dumping of highly toxic and hazardous wastes in the country.

The Ecowaste Coalition, a network of 50 organizations, said the waste categories specified in the agreement included nonrecyclable items such as incinerator ash; residues containing arsenic and mercury; sewage sludge; clinical waste like used surgical gloves and sharps, and municipal waste like sanitary napkins and diapers.

Zero tariff

JPEPA, a bilateral trade and investment treaty signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Sept. 9, mandates zero-tariff for "recyclable materials," from Japan.

Trade in hazardous waste is usually not part of trade agreements and are banned by international conventions, Ecowaste charged.

"We fear that the JPEPA will only legitimize the dumping of toxic waste materials in the guise of recycling," Ecowaste secretary Manny Calonzo said in a forum Friday.

He said the country did not even have the technology to recycle or properly treat and dispose of hazardous materials produced here.

Japan, a highly developed country with advanced recycling technology, has a recycling efficiency of only 9.9 percent, according to Health Care Without Harm, another environment-protection advocacy group.

"Experience shows that the Philippines, like most developing countries, lacks efficient hazardous waste disposal facilities," Calonzo said.

'Waste scandal'

Environmentalists fear JPEPA's provisions on the trade of hazardous waste would trigger a repeat of the 1999 "waste scandal" in which 2,700 tons of hazardous waste found their way to the Philippines from Japan.

The shipment was supposedly "waste paper for recycling," but inspection by the Bureau of Customs revealed that about 80 percent of the contents of the 122 containers were municipal and clinical waste.

The uproar caused by the shipment resulted in the waste being shipped back to Japan.

"JPEPA, no doubt, will only exacerbate our struggle against the increasing volume and toxicity of our country's wastes," Ecowaste said.

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Experts split on when to siphon fuel

From page A1

the Guimaras coastline, Coscolluela says there's probably only the Solar I's fuel that's left in the tanker resting 630 meters deep on the sea floor.

He says others believe that only two of the 10 oil containers inside the tanker had opened and that 1.6 to 1.7 million liters of oil remained of the cargo the vessel was ferrying for Petron Corp. from its depot in Bataan to Zamboanga when disaster struck.

That's what it appears from the footage taken in late August by a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) sent down by experts on board the Shinsei Maru, a Japanese research ship commissioned by Petron to investigate what happened and what to do next. (*See related story on Page A1.*)

Blobs of oil continue to escape from the tanker's vents—some experts say amounting to 120 liters per day, although others dispute the figure. No one is certain. But the experts agree the steady leak dissipates harmlessly although it remains cause for concern.

"Some people have said, why not lift the vessel and bring it back to shore," says Coscolluela.

"The answer is it would entail too much risk given the observed condition of the hull. It has a hole, a dent, certain cracks. Lifting the vessel could possibly expose it to undue pressure, causing it to break or causing the cracks to enlarge, thereby releasing more oil," he says.

Preferred approach

"So the preferred engineering approach has been—siphon off the oil and worry about recovering the vessel later if it's still worth it," Coscolluela says.

That's exactly what a representative of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund has recommended. Its executive committee will approve this method when it meets today in London, according to Coscolluella and Capt. Patrick Joseph of the IOPC, who visited the area last week.

An organization of 113 countries, the London-based IOPC under international conventions compensates for pollution damage from tankers, regardless of fault.

Siphoning the remaining oil from the Solar I requires a complex engineering process that has to be pulled off in stable weather.

Divided on timing

The experts are divided on the timing.

"It is typhoon season in the south of Guimaras right now," says Joseph. "For this operation, we need a 20- to 30-day window of calm seas. The kind of hardware that is being deployed to do this operation cannot operate when the weather is bad."

"The siphoning will start in December or January," says Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., head of Task Force Guimaras. He says the precise time will depend on the Philippine weather bureau's forecasts on whether there will be typhoons in the area then.

Coscolluela believes this schedule will be just right so the contractors will have plenty of time to gather and bring the necessary equipment to the spot over where the sunken vessel sits.

Following the meeting in London, the IOPC will choose a contractor that will carry out the operation. It is likely to cost anywhere between $8 million and $10 million on the low side to as high as $30 million.

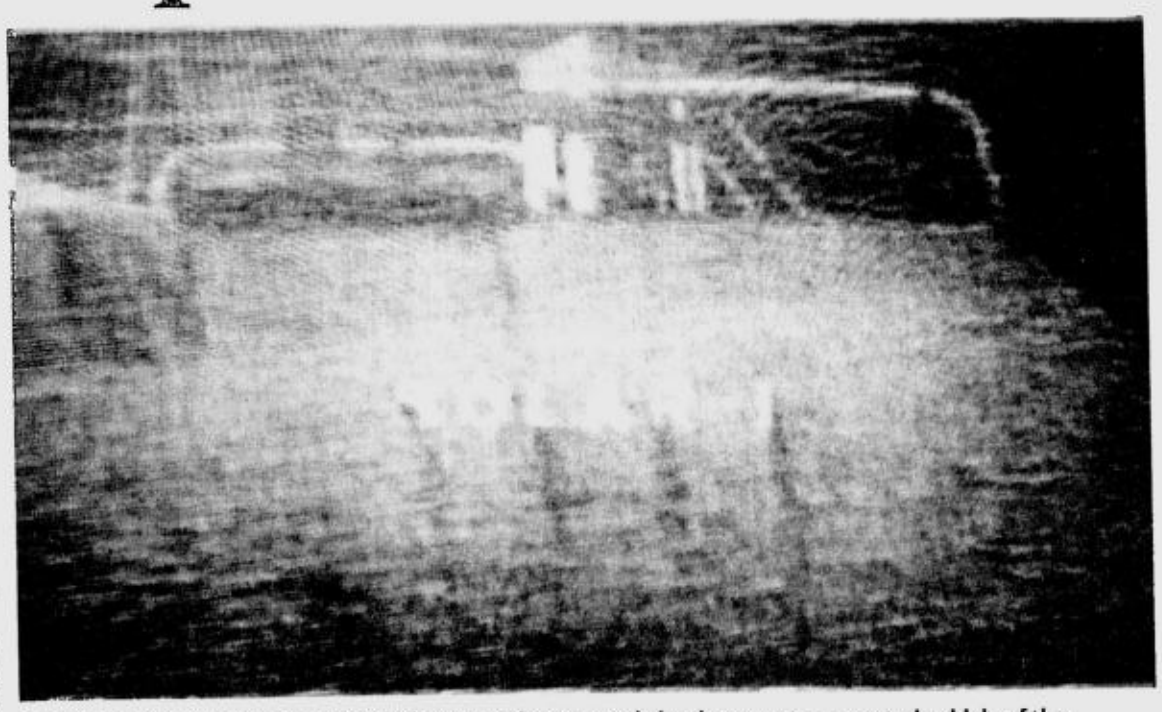
The IOPC will then negotiate with the company that will assemble all the necessary equipment and do the siphoning. The financial and legal aspects of the contract will have to be hammered out and wrapped up in the last week of October.

November will be devoted to the mobilization of equipment to Guimaras.

No time-out

The earliest that siphoning can take place will be in December, but there is still the risk of typhoons toward the yearend, something that must be avoided.

"When we begin operations, you can't call a time-out," says Coscolluela. "You're going to pay for all these equipment daily in the millions of dollars."



THE SUNKEN MT Solar I as seen in footage taken recently by the remote-operated vehicle of the Japanese survey ship Shinsei Maru. INQUIRER PHOTO

Conditions are more favorable in January, he says. "The risk is much less."

He expects the Solar I threat will be gone in February.

Ticking time bomb

"People refer to it as a ticking time bomb, for as long as the vessel is there. People in Guimaras and the Visayas say that it could blow ... an earthquake could move the vessel enough to open up more cracks," says Coscolluela.

He's not worried about a typhoon causing more damage to the vessel. At 630 meters below, storm turbulence will hardly make a difference.

But other experts believe that it will be more difficult to mount the operation early next year because of the northeast monsoon.

During the typhoon season, there is a period of good weather—just like Indian summer during winter.

"In the case of the northeast monsoon, you have constant strong winds which will start in late November and will run straight through to mid-March," says Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan, president and chief executive of the Philippine branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature headquartered in Gland, Switzerland.

"Just like in the North Sea, you're not going to have a medium current. It's going to be rough," Tan says.

Threat to Tubbataha

In this typhoon season, he says, current and wind patterns will confine an oil spill—assuming there's a hiccup in the operation -- within the Panay Gulf, possibly parts of the Guimaras Strait.

But once the northeast monsoon whips up and disaster hits a second time around, the oil spill can go all the way to Tubbataha, the famed Unesco Marine Heritage site in the central Sulu Sea.

Covering 33,200 hectares, Tubbataha Reef has a very high density of marine species and serves as a nesting site for birds and marine turtles.

"Your insurance exposure may be 10 times higher if the oil gets down there because then you're affecting that whole ecosystem. The current pattern in the Sulu sea is like a vortex. If the oil gets into that ...," Tan says, raising his eyebrows and hands in a gesture of hopelessness.

In the meantime, the Solar I ticks away lying in the cold, dark seabed. *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

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ENROLLMENT GOING ON !

DOJ suspects Solar hole tied to oil smuggling

From page A1

lar I captain Norberto Aguro.

According to NBI Director Nestor Mantaring, his agency is seriously pursuing the investigation.

The ROV, equipped with powerful cameras and an advanced sonar system, was sent down by experts on the Japanese research ship Shinsei Maru that was commissioned by Petron to look into the condition of the Solar I so it could recommend measures to retrieve the remaining oil inside the tanker lying 630 meters on the sea floor.

'Puncture-type'

A preliminary report on the ROV survey by Jon Walker, one of the experts that analyzed the footage, said "a triangular puncture-type hole, of base dimensions about 28 cm and height about 15 cm, was identified approximately in line with the forward draught mark of 3m."

"This hole is just aft of the bulkhead between No. 1 water ballast tank and the port chain locker," said Walker's report, which was made available to the INQUIRER. It was located "over an approximate area to the seabed of about 2m in height (to the upper line of the red boot top strip) and about 3.6m from frames 106 to 100."

"Additional shell plate localized contact points (two with missing coating), appears to suggest repeated contact on the hull aft of the puncture," the report said.

"The damage initially did not look to be as a result of the sinkage of the vessel. However, it is an area of shell plate indentation that shows no extensive signs of contact damage. As such, it may be that this could be an indication of implosion and requires further investigation to determine its cause."

Container dent?

During a closed-door investigation conducted by the Special Board of Marine Inquiry, an expert aboard the Shinsei Maru last month raised the possibility that the puncture might have been caused by a container van that fell off a cargo ship.

Walker's report, however, said that "during interviews with the crew, they did not recall any incident when they experienced colliding with an object at sea or a jetty."

"There are oil stains above the hole indicating a previous release from this hole. No oil was seen coming out of this hole during the survey," the report said.

In suggesting that oil pilferage was partly the cause of the sinking, the justice department noted the triangular hole, the scratches on different parts of the vessel and the open valves on some compartments where the transported fuel was stored.

Submersible pumps

"These findings bolster the theory that another ship was traveling alongside the Solar I when it sank and it probably caused the triangular hole in the hull of the Solar I," the justice department said.

"Moreover, these findings also point to the possibility that the unknown vessel traveling alongside the Solar I was engaged in *paihi* operations (oil smuggling)," it added.

"Industry sources claimed that the people behind the paihi operation most likely used submersible pumps, the same type of pumps used to dewater the MT Solar I, to illegally pilfer bunker fuel oil." *With reports from Margaux C. Ortiz and Tetch Torres, Inq7.net*

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2 Mega Pacific owners bag deal

From page A1

Multi-Forms Corp. was declared the winning bidder by the Comelec on Sept. 4, about 10 months after the poll body conducted the public bidding for the printing of voters' registration forms and their corresponding identification cards.

Johnson Fong is president of Multi-Forms Corp., one of the more than 20 accredited private printers of the state-run National Printing Office (NPO).

Fong's son Bernard helps run the family-owned and controlled firm, which has offices at 13-15 Gregorio del Pilar St. in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

Incidentally, Johnson and Bernard Fong are also owners and stockholders of the infamous Mega Pacific, according to Faustino Datu Jr., sales manager of BestForms Inc., a losing bidder.

A check with the Securities and Exchange Commission confirmed Datu's claim.

But "there's nothing wrong with that," Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said.

"And even assuming that the Fongs in Multi-Forms and the Fongs in Mega Pacific are the same persons, have they committed any wrongdoing? Just because you've been charged before a given court, should there be presumption of guilt? *'Wag naman*," Abalos said.

Separate entities

Abalos, a former judge, argued that "in doing business, you do not deal with the individual stockholders, you deal with the corporation."

"Why? Because they are considered separate entities," he said.

The other Mega Pacific incorporators are Willy Yu, Bonnie Yu, Enrique Tansipek, Rosita Tansipek, Pedro Tan and Lauriano Barrios, according to SEC records.

BestForms had cited Johnson and Bernard Fong in graft cases the firm filed three months ago against NPO officer in charge Felipe Evardone in the Office of the Ombudsman and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

BestForms said Evardone had tried to enter into a negotiated contract with Multi-Forms "for the supply of carbonless security paper (although) there was no valid reason for him to resort to the alternative mode of procurement under Republic Act No. 9184 (the Government Procurement Reform Act of 2003)."

Evardone also recommended Multi-Forms to Philippine Information Agency (PIA) head Conrado Limcaoco Jr. "for the ... juicy and anomalous paper contract," documents furnished both investigative bodies showed.

But the PIA, which oversees NPO operations, denied Evardone's request and directed him instead to conduct a public bidding for the procurement of the special type of paper.

Evardone has yet to reply to the graft charges. He told the INQUIRER that he would "not dignify my accusers and their charges."

Last week, Malacañang ordered the three-month preventive suspension of Evardone in connection with the allegedly anomalous bidding of P90 million worth of Bureau of Customs forms.

In its July 31 complaint-affidavit, BestForms referred to the Fongs as the "same owners and stockholders of Mega Pacific eSolutions who were recently criminally indicted by the Ombudsman for entering into an anomalous computer contract with the Comelec."

(On Oct. 2, Abalos, other Comelec officials and Mega Pacific executives were cleared by the Ombudsman of any wrongdoing in the automation contract. The Supreme Court maintains that the deal violated the law and the commission's bidding rules, and that Mega Pacific's counting machines are vulnerable to poll fraud on a massive scale.)

Johnson Fong did not return this reporter's calls to his Quezon City office.

Apparently referring to BestForms, Abalos said he knew "exactly what those people are up to. Apparently desperate, they're raising a nonissue to pressure us."

"But we won't be cowed by this kind of pressure," he said.

Abalos also assailed the Parañaque City-based printer for allegedly twisting the facts.

BestForms had questioned the Comelec bidding process, which Datu indicated had been "rigged," a claim affirmed by a small group of commission insiders, mainly critics of Abalos.

An executive of another printing company said he was "not surprised (some Comelec insiders) had started referring to the November 2005 bidding as Mega Pacific-Part 2."

Sometime in early 2003, the Comelec held a public bidding for its computerization and election modernization program. Out of 57 bidders who applied, only Mega Pacific Consortium (MPC) and Total Information Management Corp. were declared eligible by the poll body's bids and awards committee (BAC).

The project was eventually awarded to MPC. However, the contract was executed with a different entity, MPEI, described by Sen. Miriam Santiago as "a dubious entity which did not even participate in the public bidding."

Abalos dismissed allegations that the November 2005 bidding for the voters' registration forms and IDs was rigged.

"What rigged bidding are they talking about? The bidding was above board and very transparent," he said.

Disqualified

BestForms, Abalos noted, had been "disqualified and it's not the Comelec's fault. The printing company failed in the technical evaluation which is part of the bidding's eligibility requirement."

"BestForms took part in the bidding in partnership with another printer called Ernest Printing. Their arrangement supposedly required the use of Ernest Printing machines in the printing of Comelec forms with BestForms supplying the paper. But Ernest Printing backed out. That's the main reason BestForms was disqualified," the Comelec chair said.

Abalos asked BestForms to "file a formal protest or appeal and the corresponding bond that goes with it."

BestForms "had written the Comelec a letter insisting we open their second envelope (which contained BestForms' financial offer). But there's a protest mechanism losing bidders need to go through and BestForms, I am sure, knows that," he said.

"Now they're blaming and putting pressure on us to change our decision in their favor. Is that proper?" said a visibly irked Abalos.

Irregularities

Earlier in a phone interview, Datu insisted that "irregularities in the Comelec bidding process were glaring."

"BestForms was the lowest complying bidder while the one presented by (Multi-Forms) was clearly overpriced. The maneuver was obvious," he said.

Datu said "bidding irregularities like this are among the reasons why our people are losing faith in the system. (The Comelec) continues to lose its credibility due to one scandal after another."

"If the Comelec continues to ignore our plea to nullify the award to Multi-Forms, we have no recourse but bring the matter to the Supreme Court," he said.

Aside from Abalos, Commissioners Resurreccion Borra, Florentino Tuason and Nicodemo Ferrer supported the Multi-Forms bid, said Comelec BAC chair Jose Tolentino.

Typhoon ...

From page A1

the person who helped him, except that he, or she, was from Polangui town in Albay.

His neighbors said they heard the person gave P10,000 for the reconstruction of Pulgosino's house.

Salvacion Altiche, 76, Pulgosino's grandmother, was grateful for the assistance. "It's really hard for them, especially since they don't have a father," she said.

Another person from Manila, who also refused to be identified, sent him P5,000 through Bank of the Philippine Islands.

"But the money has all been spent. We had to pay our debts and we also bought clothes and other things we needed," Pulgosino said.

He said only six sets of clothes for him, his brother and his mother, who is a laundrywoman, were salvaged. The rest, including other belongings, were lost when their house was swept into the sea.

Work now, school later

He said he didn't plan to go back to school immediately.

"I need to work even as a porter to help my mother," Pulgosino said, adding that he could not really afford to go to school.

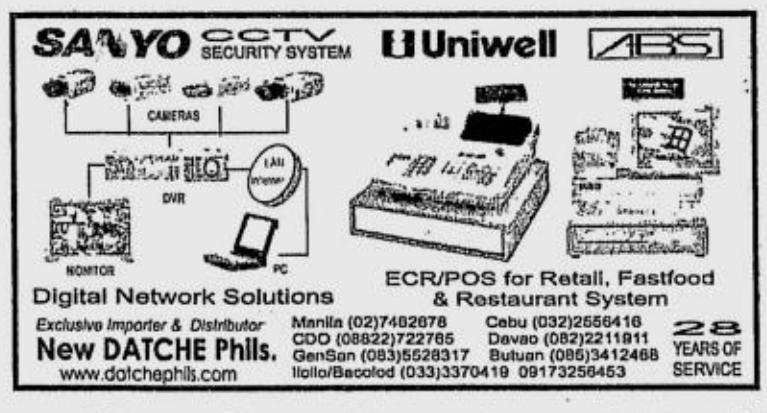
He used to collect metal and plastic scraps and sell them to a nearby junk shop at P10 per kilo.

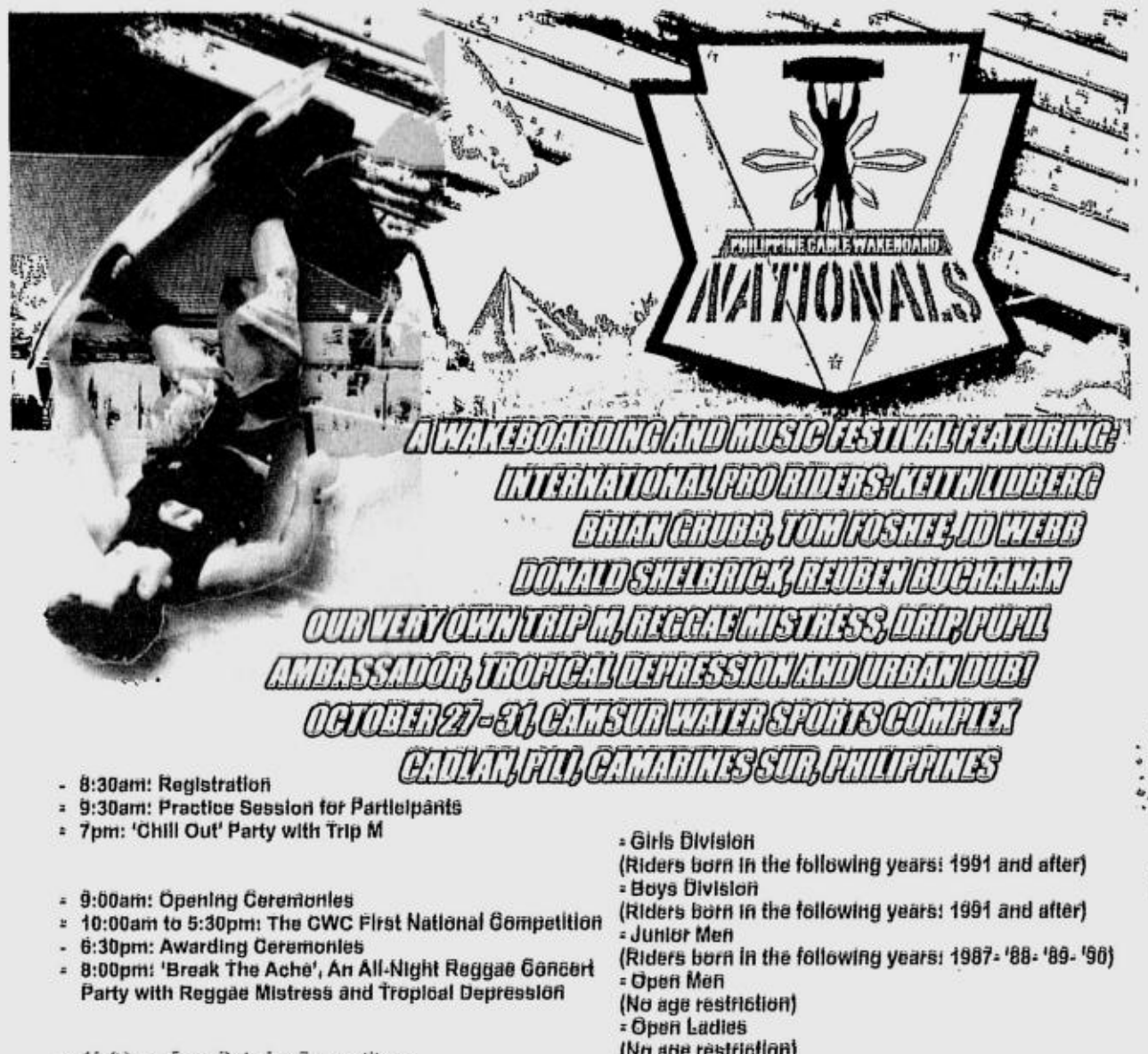
His younger brother is able to go to school with the help of the nongovernment organization Children's International.

Pulgosino does not have a similar sponsor.

But he said he would like to continue his education if he could afford it.

Pulgosino appreciated the assistance he received. "Thank you very much. What you did was a great help for us. We cannot thank you enough," he said teary-eyed.





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MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2006

ISSN 0116-2642

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 21 No. 317

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
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Is there no one else?

THE LATEST CABINET REVAMP IS NOTABLE FOR its lack of new faces. Arthur Yap is back as secretary of agriculture; Domingo Panganiban, the technocrat he replaced, is temporarily reassigned to the National Anti-Poverty Commission. Cerge Remonde replaces Yap as head of the Presidential Management Staff. Former Armed Forces chief Generoso Senga is the new chair of the National Broadcasting Network, while Sergio Apostol—former Leyte congressman, former Estrada impeachment trial prosecutor, former Philippine National Oil Company chair—is the new chief presidential legal counsel.

EDITORIAL

Other less-than-dramatic changes include kicking Maria Elena Bautista and Anneli Lontoc upstairs at the Department of Transportation and Communications and appointing ex-police general Thompson Lantion to replace Bautista as head of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

It is the Chief Executive's privilege, of course, to appoint key officials to the executive agencies. Besides, and as Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita reminded reporters: "A reshuffle is normal, you know." It all depends on the President herself: "when she feels that it will enhance the implementation of certain programs in progress."

None of this means that any presidential appointment is beyond criticism; the public has the duty to examine any appointment or series of appointments closely, searchingly. The Constitution remains the measure: Are its strictures being violated, its standards met? Government policy, too, is a benchmark: Will the new appointments enable the administration to achieve its stated policy objectives? And then there's the rest of the criteria: patterns of decision-making, political realities, hidden agendas.

Two things, in particular, strike us about the recent appointments.

First, there isn't a single new face in the crowd. While this may simply mean that the President prefers to depend on those officials she has learned to trust, it may also mean that the five-year-old Arroyo administration is having a harder time attracting new blood. It can be argued that convincing the politician-technocrat Margarito Teves to accept the finance portfolio in the depths of the Hello, Garci scandal was the President's most important hiring decision—in part because of Teves' stature, in part because he did not belong to Malacañang's inner circle. His appointment and that of others in the wake of the Hyatt 10's dramatic resignation helped stabilize the markets, and effectively insulated much of the economy from the Garci scandal's political fallout.

The President's appointment of Francisco Licuanan, formerly of Ayala Land, as chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, in September 2004 was also much lauded. Sadly, there doesn't seem to be any Licuanans in the latest batch.

Second, the reshuffle is an act of consolidation—necessitated, in our view, by administration fears about next year's elections. Consider the appointments of Remonde as PMS chief and Apostol as chief legal adviser. These are seats in the inner circle, and the appointees are men in the mold of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez: with undoubted loyalty to the President and proven **political** savvy. Even Lantion's posting to the influential, politically important LTFRB can be seen in this light. (Bautista herself has said that the President had listened to the wrong voices in the matter of the LTFRB, and that only fixers will benefit from the change.)

Yap, without a doubt, is both competent and loyal to the President, who had served as his teacher in economics in the Ateneo de Manila; in view of the coming political contest, this is a decided advantage over Panganiban, who is only competent. Even Senga's surprise appointment to the government television network is in the nature of political preparation, because the Government Mass Media Group has also been disbanded. This means Press Secretary and Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye will consolidate his control over the government's considerable media machinery.

Bunye welcomed the news as nothing more than a restructuring in form. "Whatever moves there are, the objectives are administrative simplicity and efficiency." Form follows function, however; is there any doubt, half a year before the make-or-break elections, what the function of greater efficiency is for?

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Who are the ghosts in Makati's payroll?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHATEVER MALACAÑANG AND ITS LAWyers and allies say to justify the attempted suspension of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, it will smack of oppression and dirty politics. The suspension of duly elected officials was allowed under our laws to prevent them from tampering with documents and other evidence, such as receipts, while their case is being investigated. Perfectly sensible.

But the charge against Binay is that he has "ghost employees." It is a simple matter of asking the mayor to produce the workers in the city's payroll and prove that they are warm bodies and not ghosts. Failing that, then he should be declared guilty. There are no documents or evidence relating to the case that he can tamper with. Therefore, there is no need to suspend him and disrupt the delivery of basic services to the people of Makati. In fact, he can still be prosecuted for having ghost employees even while he remains the mayor of Makati.

Besides, the complainant in the case, perennial losing candidate Bobby Brillante, is not even sure if there are ghost employees and who they are. His complaint only presents the names in the payroll and says that "some of them are ghost employees." Some of them! A regular court would have thrown the complaint into a waste basket then and there. But Malacañang, without even trying to get the side of Binay, or asking Brillante who these ghost employees were, immediately suspended Binay. That was a denial of due process guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

That's why Binay went to the Court of Appeals. Who are these ghost employees? Let Brillante identify them. Then, presumably, Binay would present them one by one to the investigating body to prove that they are real people, alive and kicking, and not ghosts. If he fails to produce even one of them, then he will be proven guilty.

But Brillante, until now, has not produced a list of the alleged ghost employees, even though All Saints' Day is just around the corner. If he is sure of his facts, it is a simple matter of ticking off the names of the ghosts. Why can't he?

Because the real purpose of Malacañang is not to identify the ghosts and prove corruption but just to suspend Binay and get him out of the Makati City Hall before the election period ban on suspensions kicks in. The start of the ban is only weeks away. That is why Malacañang is in a hurry.

The Palace wants Binay out because he has been a pain in the ass of the administration from the time Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo made herself President. Besides, it does not speak well of the administration that the business capital of the Philippines is a bulwark of the opposition, where street protests are regularly held to demand GMA's ouster. While it is almost impossible for protesters to get rally permits in other Metro Manila cities and municipalities, Makati is practically an open city to them.

Nothing would make Malacañang happier than to have Binay out of Makati. That is why it seems to have lured, with unlimited campaign funds, action star Lito Lapid, GMA's fellow Kapampangan, into running against Binay next year. But even they are not so sure anybody can dislodge the very popular mayor of Makati. Certainly, they cannot pit Brillante, who has lost so many elections people have lost count how many times. And even Lapid fanatics believe that their idol will have the political fight of his life against Binay.

So if they cannot defeat Binay fair and square, they will do it by hook or by crook, which is the style of GMA. Suspend him during the campaign period to immobilize him and cut him off from patronage politics, and Makati would have a new mayor—never mind if that new mayor cannot discuss anything intelligently with the world's business leaders or, in fact, cannot even talk straight English with them.

Thank God there is a Court of Appeals and a Supreme Court to run to when an oppressive executive department runs berserk.

* * *

One of those recently accused by the Department of Justice of rebellion passed me a note implying that he is being made a scapegoat and abandoned by two-faced intriguers. Here is the note:

"We Filipinos have a way of describing people who would place their bets on both sides of opposing forces to secure their interest whosoever should eventually win. We refer to them as '*namamangka sa dalawang ilog*' or 'canoeing in two rivers'.

"Businessmen in this country are notorious for this characteristic, especially during the election season when they would contribute to the campaign funds of rival candidates. But in the middle of last year, which was not an election year, businessmen were canoeing in two rivers—one leading to Malacañang, the other to the forces working for the President's ouster.

"The President's hold on power became shaky last year because of the Garci tapes. Some businessmen, in the guise of being patriotic, approached several personalities in the Oust-Gloria Movement to offer their financial support. But when GMA was somehow able to regain her footing, the businessmen hastily left the river leading to the anti-Gloria forces without saying goodbye.

"Then they did everything to assure GMA that they were on her side. But before their turnaround, they already said a mouthful about how 'outraged' they were with the President's 'conspiracy' with Garci to steal the presidency.

"Ultimately, however, one of the personalities in the Oust-Gloria Movement named some of them as among those who, like him, encouraged (Brig. Gen.) Danilo Lim to withdraw support from GMA. Their public denials, obviously for GMA's consumption, were ludicrous: while they admitted that they met with the Anti-Gloria personality, (they said) he went to their house 'uninvited.'

"What will these guys do if, as in Thailand, GMA is ousted?"

Shameless in Manila

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

RAUL GONZALEZ IS LIVID (WHAT ELSE IS new?). The Court of Appeals, he says, exceeded its authority when it ruled to lift Jejomar Binay off the hook. "The TRO was supposed to only suspend the suspension. But it also ordered that we should stop the investigation. Binay was only asking for a TRO to suspend the suspension."

That statement comes from a justice secretary who thought he wasn't exceeding the bounds of justice, not to speak of common decency, when he was practically lawyering for the accused Americans in the Nicole rape case. I myself will suspend judgment (in the spirit of suspensions) about that case, but I will not suspend judgment about the way Gonzalez comported himself in it, which was, to put it mildly, absolutely shameless. Indeed, the above statement comes from a justice secretary who continues to think, along with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, that he is not exceeding his authority, or what passes for it, by agreeing to prevent public officials from appearing in the Senate notwithstanding that the Supreme Court has trashed EO 464.

Indeed that statement comes in the face of an initiative (to muscle out a duly elected public official) that goes past the bounds not just of decency but of sanity itself. I heard the exchange between Binay and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno last Tuesday night, during the first day of Binay's suspension, and nothing could be more damning for government. To say that Binay reduced Puno to fumbling inarticulateness is to say Gonzalez is not always in the full possession of his senses: It is the understatement of the year. After Binay repeatedly challenged Puno to show proof of a ghost employee under his watch, indeed after demanding to know what kind of investigation was conducted for Puno to conclude wrongdoing on Binay's part, Puno tried to exculpate himself by blaming his bosses for the crime. He wasn't the one who fired Binay, he said at length, Malacañang did.

This was after one public official after another had been reciting like a mantra that there was nothing "political" about the suspension of Binay. The dismissal of a local official signed by the executive secretary and not by the secretary of the DILG—an astonishing usurpation of authority—is not political? The attempt to dismiss a duly elected official who happens to be a thorn in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's side by GMA herself—by Puno's own suggestion—is not political?

In fact, all that is accomplished by Gonzalez et al.'s continuing effort to hound Binay notwithstanding the Court of Appeals' rebuff is to etch the contrast between Binay's and GMA's cases even more sharply. The ease with which elected officials can be yanked out today for any offense, real or imagined, is matched only by the impossibility of doing the same thing to an unelected one, whose very "unelectedness," implying as it does the theft of vote, by itself constitutes treason. The zealousness with which public officials entrusted with enforcing law and justice try to see wrongdoing where there is none, or little, is matched only by the zealousness with which those institutions entrusted with safeguarding reason and morality undertake to see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil where evil riots more savagely than the drunken *istambays* in the narrow alleys of this benighted metropolis.

What was Puno suggesting during that confrontation with Binay last Tuesday? Binay was being suspended **prior** to investigation to prevent him from signing checks as a precaution just in case he turned out to be guilty of paying off ghost employees. What happened during both times that this country tried to impeach GMA? Her allies in Congress said they could not suspend her from being President because the Garci tape was inadmissible as evidence—as though it was all right to allow a terrorist caught on tape planning to bomb churches and schoolhouses in Metro Manila to become the country's national security chief because he was taped clandestinely.

In the first, there is a monstrous willingness to take utmost precaution against a threat that is at least negligible and at best has yet to be proven. In the second, there is an even more monstrous willingness to allow the country to be razed by a threat that is at least lethal and at most has been proven by words that come straight from the horse's mouth—my profoundest apologies to horses.

I am glad Binay and company have defied the suspension for the iniquity that it is. I am glad the business community has not acted opportunistically to endorse an act that adds whole new dimensions to the meaning of opportunism. Who knows? Maybe the businessmen saw that, as with Marcos, absolute power corrupts absolutely: leaders who have absolute power do not only persecute their enemies, they persecute everyone.

I am glad the Court of Appeals has shown the public can still appeal to its sense of justice. I am glad that the NGOs, Church elements, the opposition and various personalities, not the least of them Cory Aquino and Susan Roces, and Eddie Villanueva, trekked to Makati to show their sympathy and support for Binay. You do not have to like Binay to do something like that, you need only to love fairness. I am glad the residents of Makati gathered around their mayor the way village folk flock around their pregnant women with burning torches during *manananggal* sightings to ward off evil. And I am glad the media and the public expressed their detestation of that foul deed. If they hadn't, it truly would have been time to go abroad or to the hills—this country would no longer be capable of offering justice.

Gonzalez and company say this thing is by no means over. They **are** right. But this thing is by no means over.

This country has just begun to fight.

The battle over billboards

(Conclusion)

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

IN MY COLUMN LAST WEEK, I WROTE ABOUT billboards as property and about the role of police power in regulating them. I said then that the basis of regulation by police power can be the demands of public health, public safety and even the need to keep the surroundings beautiful. The current campaign against billboards has been mainly on the basis of safety—the need to protect human life and property.

The scope of the regulatory power can also depend on whether billboards are on-site, that is, they are set to advertise goods and services which are found in the place where they stand; or off-site, that is, they are erected in public places away from the goods or services being advertised. The regulatory power over on-site billboards is necessarily narrower because of the freedom of persons to treat their premises as they please. But whether on-site or off-site, billboards can still be regulated for the purpose of safeguarding public safety or avoiding visual clutter or urban blight. To the best of my knowledge, however, aesthetics, standing by itself, has so far not been used as basis for regulation.

Another aspect of billboards which needs to be considered is their relation to freedom of expression. Billboards speak. They even shout. They are used to advertise not only goods and services but also political and religious ideas.

The expression of political and religious ideas occupies a preferred rank in the hierarchy of constitutional rights. But even ideas may be subject to "time, place and manner" regulation. Our law has done this with campaign speeches during the election period. Political speech during the election campaign period is considered subject to stricter regulation for the purpose of maintaining a free and orderly election and equality among candidates. For this purpose, jurisprudence recognizes special regulatory powers of the Commission on Elections during the election period.

In general, however, the content of billboards, when it deals with political or religious matters, can be interfered with only under the strict "clear and present danger rule." In this connection, I have been wondering whatever happened to the huge signs on the walls of the San Carlos Seminary campus along Edsa. Those signs advertised vocation to the priesthood. Were they blown away by "Milenyo" or by the Department of Public Works and Highways? If so, on what basis?

When it comes to "commercial speech," however, it is a different matter. Commercial speech simply means communication whose sole purpose is to propose a commercial transaction. For many years, jurisprudence did not consider commercial speech protected by the Constitution. The reasoning was that the broad powers of the State to regulate business included an equally broad power to regulate commercial speech.

The case that turned the tide involved the advertising of prescription drugs. The Court affirmed that commercial advertising enjoyed constitutional protection. The Court's reasoning went this way: "Generalizing, society also may have a strong interest in the free flow of commercial information. Even an individual advertisement, though entirely 'commercial,' may be of general public interest. The facts of decided cases furnish illustrations: ... a manufacturer of artificial furs promotes his product as an alternative to the extinction by his competitors of fur-bearing mammals ... a domestic producer advertises his product as an alternative to imports that tend to deprive American residents of their jobs."

Even with this decision, however, commercial speech has not been accorded the same level of protection as that given to what is called "core" speech, that is, political and religious speech. Thus, the need for standards of regulation for commercial speech.

The standards came in 1980 with Central Hudson Gas vs Public Service Commission. In that case, the Court set down the requirements for the protection of commercial speech, by ruling that regulation of commercial speech does not violate the constitutional guarantee on freedom of expression if the regulation satisfies four conditions. First, the advertisement being regulated must be found to be false or misleading or proposes an illegal activity. Second, the regulation must be intended to protect a substantial governmental interest. Certainly, for instance, traffic safety, is a substantial interest. Third, the regulation must directly advance the governmental interest. And fourth, the regulation must not be more than necessary to serve the government interest.

Needless to say, the advertising industry is a multimillion-dollar business. Similarly, the "vice" businesses such as alcohol and tobacco are likewise multimillion-dollar operations. Attempts to apply the Central Hudson standards to the regulation of the tobacco and alcohol industry have generated intense legal controversy in the United States. Expect the same to happen in our litigious society. Also expect the advertising industry to strike back at any indiscriminate dismantling of billboards.

* * *

P.S. On a completely different matter, will the solicitor general file a motion for reconsideration of the unanimous decision of the Supreme Court on the immunity of the Presidential Commission on Good Government? If he does, do not expect his purpose to be the discovery of the correct law.

Aimee in limbo

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

IF MANILA IMPERIALISM WERE A CRIME (A "cultural sin" it is), then the University of Santo Tomas College of Nursing officials would have been found guilty of the felony.

Fixated on their call for a total retake of the tainted nursing board examinations, they have filed a motion asking for a reconsideration of the Court of Appeals decision for a "selective retake." UST is obviously not only discontented with but also peeved at the judgment which determined that the cheating took place only in Baguio and Manila. It was an outright repudiation of its position. What gives?

It is said that a retake is the price UST wants the schools that did well in the exams—especially those in the provinces—to pay for humiliating the Royal and Pontifical University which turned in a dismal performance in the exams. As the story goes, the most painful pill it had to swallow was the failure of its top graduate (a cum laude) to make it to the top. The poor student even failed the exams.

That the exams' top 10 placers were mostly graduates of provincial nursing schools (seven of them from Mindanao) was even more difficult for UST to accept. And so bent on exacting "revenge," it continues to mouth the line that cheating had also taken place outside Manila and Baguio, even though it cannot produce any hard evidence.

I do not rejoice over the failure of that UST honor student to pass the exams, but to configure that graduate's and the institution's failure by saying that provincial schools are unlikely to emerge from the exams because they are not at par with Manila schools is pure and simple bigotry. What temerity and gall!

If UST would only look below its nose, it will not fail to see that Manila is, indeed, the center of the Philippine cheating culture. Manila has produced the well-known University of Recto where one can "graduate" with a bogus diploma for a song. It is a well-known fact in the nursing academe that many deans of Manila's nursing schools simply rotate deanships depending on the highest bidder. It is a dog-eat-dog world that most provinces have not yet succumbed to, not yet at least, unless the Manila-centered media succeed with the inanities they project to the provinces.

What has happened to the vaunted and revered Thomasian spirit, the same spirit inspired by the towering intellect and ideals of that great Catholic saint, Thomas Aquinas? UST can only look into its soul, and see what uncharitable injustice it now wants to inflict on the thousands who legitimately passed the exams and who now have to suffer the stigma of being branded cheats even if they were not. By looking only at its own self, UST has missed out on one reality: what about those who passed without cheating?

A little girl from Mindanao, barely in her teens, can teach the painful lesson that UST now needs to learn. Aimee Capinpuyan now wants the children of married board passers to go out and take a stand for the sake of their fathers and mothers who passed the exams without cheating. This is Aimee's message:

"My family was so happy when Dad graduated from the school of nursing. Finally, after three long years of studying and late-night hospital work, he graduated. But before he could become a licensed nurse, he had to take the Nursing Board Exam. All throughout the month of May and early June, Dad did nothing else but study. In our family, he was the last to sleep and the first to wake up. I could even remember seeing him study before I went to sleep and still see him studying when I woke up. My Dad was extremely determined to pass.

"The day of the board exams came and went. All we could do then was wait for the results. Both my parents were on constant look-out for the results; checking websites and newspapers. Mom and Dad's anxiety was evident, but I wasn't so worried. Having witnessed all that preparation and hard work, I knew he would pass.

"The results came at last. I was right! My Dad had passed the exams! We were all ecstatic. All that Dad had to do now was take his oath and then he'd become a certified nurse. But then came the leakage controversy. The look of happiness on Dad's face had turned into sorrow and then anger. He was angry at all the injustice going on. We all were. Dad was back to looking for articles online and searching through newspapers.

"I wonder how many other kids are going through what I am. I wonder how many kids have parents who have studied long and hard for the exams, only to be told that they have to take them again. I wonder how many kids have parents who are also victims of injustice.

"What kid would be happy to see her parent being branded as a cheater?

"My message to all kids who are going through what I am is: TAKE A STAND."

Who deserves to be in limbo?

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

Advertising a threat

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

WHEN THE PRESIDENT WAS ON THE VERGE of handing in her letter of resignation last year, two individuals appeared, promising to save her. One was former President Fidel Ramos, who was upset that in the brewing crisis, he had not been consulted by the forces fed up with the administration. The other was Chavit Singson, who could not afford a regime change, and so he gathered other provincial leaders and flew them to Manila to declare support for the President.

Ramos gambled big, won a battle but lost the larger war: he had hoped to achieve a unicameral parliament without the need for federalism in the soonest possible time. But Ramos' appeal for the President to make a supreme sacrifice was too close to what Cory Aquino and some Catholic bishops were asking for. Speaker Jose de Venecia, on the other hand, was willing to wait a little longer for what Ramos wanted almost immediately—a parliament—and he offered the President what she craved most: not an end to her presidency, but a life-saving extension. So he then mobilized the Lakas-CMD in a showdown with Ramos, who proved he could not carry his party, which handed the political momentum to the President. The Speaker then loyally united the Lower House with the governors in pursuing a common political objective. It was the "mother of all political horse-trades": the President to stagger on in office until 2010 (at least); and the national elections and term limits will be abolished (with possible term extensions for everyone). Turned out it wasn't Ramos who'd come up with a win-win!

And Singson gambled bigger and continues to win big: he showed the President that by rallying provincial governors, she could foil virtually every other pressure group. Governors and congressmen realized that they could harness the idea of liberating the provinces, while ensuring that the provinces wouldn't be liberated from anyone except the burden of submitting (or in their view, pandering) to a national electorate.

Academics (such as Jose Abueva) and lobbyists (such as Carmen Pedrosa) would be useful as a foil to those in civil society and academe who would turn against the President. But what Abueva and Pedrosa desired—federalism—would be permanently kept on the backburner (and besides, a parliament is more of an immediate objective).

The ultimate objective of the present move to change the Constitution is, therefore, not reform. The chief aim—and the fundamental effect that aim will have—is warlord power. Warlord power fuels "Charter change" as it has mutated during the present crisis. There is no grand ideal behind it, such as federalism. Put another way, federalism is what may excite the public, but it does not excite the incumbent, professional politicians who would compose a future parliament.

Note that the (Rep. Prospero) Pichay amendments, rival of the (Rep. Constantino) Jaraula amendments that constitute the Lower House's blueprint for a future government, have dropped all mention of federalism. This is because, at best, federalism is only a camouflage to get the gullible support of people like Abueva and Pedrosa—their allies, such as Alex Magno, De Venecia and Ramos, have never wanted, or trusted, the idea of federalism. What motivates the support of provincial warlords such as Singson is precisely the delicious possibility that a national leadership that threatens their provincial fiefdoms would be permanently abolished. What they have in mind—and with them the governors and groups like the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines—is completely different from what the modernizers want. But the modernizers can serve and will be used as deodorizers.

The Pichay amendments, too, have scrapped the other justification for constitutional amendments—the loosening of existing economic provisions. The dropping of federalism and of economic liberalization from Charter change shows that as far as the President's own pet party, Kampi, is concerned, and the many factions in the Lower House that signed on to Pichay's proposal, their Plan B is to force unicameralism and parliamentarism through. Even if the Supreme Court rules against the so-called "people's initiative." Again: a one-party state dominated by provincial warlords is their ultimate objective. Nothing modern, efficient, or admirable about it.

And having learned, the President also has a reserve option: simulated people power. Any reading of world events to the noninsular-minded will underscore a reality government propagandists have cleverly refused to acknowledge. That is: in any country, protests numbering in the tens of thousands are nothing to sneeze at. By any measure, they are remarkable demonstrations of a government's unpopularity and loss of legitimacy. Time and again, public protests have reached that number but what has been foiled, through the use of force, is any protest lasting more than a day.

But mobilize a force of equal number, and then allow it to rampage in the streets, and no government would be able to ignore it. That is the veiled threat in the statements of government agents such as Raul Lambino and company: that, if they end up frustrated by the courts, they will be unable to control their partisans. And so the threat that if Charter change is delayed to the extent that the President and her allies risk the wrath of the public in an election, the President's partisans will erupt in revolt and force the President's hand. An *autogolpe*, a self-coup option is back on the table. And the Supreme Court has been pointedly reminded of it. It doesn't matter whether or not the partisans are really there; what matters is the threat is there. It's for everyone to see—in the papers, every day, in government-sponsored ads.

Role of community in quality education

HOW ARE OUR CHILDREN FARING IN SCHOOL TODAY?

A 75 percent score or higher in the annual National Achievement Tests connotes mastery of the Department of Education-set minimum learning competencies.

This year, the average NAT score for Grade 6 pupils hovers at 57 percent.

Out of 29,000 schools with Grade 6 classes, only a little more than 2,000 schools scored 75 percent in each of the five test categories. This makes for a passing rate of less than 1 percent.

COMMENTARY

Eugenia Duran Apostol

The DepEd's Schools First Initiative points to the continuing isolation of the public school from the community it serves as a contributing factor to the decline in the quality of our education—something that we've been seeing these past four decades.

However, it seems that students actually learn better and achieve more in places where the parents and other community stakeholders—together with the school head and faculty—take an active part in improving learning outcomes.

Clearly, **community participation** is the best weapon we have to meet the crisis in Philippine education.

But how do we actually engage communities?

There seems to be an endemic lack of almost everything as far as public schools are concerned. In thinking of ways to help, how can we maintain focus? Let me offer you some gems from three education executives.

Dr. Edilberto "DJ" de Jesus once said, "All education initiatives are good, but they are not at a sufficient scale to make significant change." DJ became education secretary a few days after he uttered these words.

Lawyer Florencio "Butch" Abad, also a former education secretary, has repeatedly said, "Our greatest challenge is to make our communities share in the education of our children."

And finally, some words from the honorable, incumbent Education Secretary Jesli Aquino Lapus: "We do not need to reinvent the wheel. But we will try to make the wheels turn in reality—not just in vision."

Their words are our guideposts.

Abad stresses the pivotal role the community plays in meaningful education reform.

De Jesus emphasizes the need for scale, while Secretary Lapus underscores the need to plan strategically and to use resources judiciously.

How do we begin?

First, get an Education Revolution community organizer (CO).

The CO is the point person that can make things happen. He or she helps the community focus its energies toward improving learning outcomes. Furthermore, the CO facilitates strategic planning sessions toward realistic, achievable goals with time-bound workable solutions.

The CO can come from any academic discipline, although exposure to social work or community development, or some field experience, can be an advantage.

Where can we find suitable COs?

Here are some likely places:

- From your own staff if you are an organized group with an existing education improvement program.
- Volunteers from community groups.
- The community extension office staff from a nearby college or university.
- New graduates of Social Work or Community Development courses.

The next step is to identify a progressive school head and introduce your CO to him or her. A proactive school head committed to improving learning outcomes can spell the difference between mediocrity and excellence.

Third, see if an alliance for education can be made with NGOs and foundations operating in the area. Their experience and insight can be an invaluable resource.

And finally, start the community organizing process.

Sounds simple? It should be, because that's how it must be.

But doesn't community-organizing work require a lot of skill and patience? Doesn't it take years to organize one community, let alone several?

The answer to both questions is "Yes," if we were organizing for causes like agrarian reform or human rights.

"Education improvement," however, is a cause that the entire community can easily rally behind—social, political, cultural and ethnic considerations notwithstanding.

The Foundation for Worldwide People Power uses a simplified performance-based strategy to catalyze the community organizing process.

Essentially, this framework links performance—as measured by the National Achievement Tests—to reward, in the form of resources like teaching aids, workbooks and manuals, teacher training and even physical facilities.

The private sector consistently gives substantial resources, time and expertise to public schools.

Doesn't it make sense to recast the donor-donee relationship into a partnership premised on achievement?

Groups that the FWWPP has talked to—notably the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF), the Philippine Business for Education (PBEd) and the Department of Education itself—find the concept fundamentally sound and the goals attainable.

Furthermore, the FWWPP already has working templates for each aspect of the community organizing process. We are currently using the performance-based framework and the templates to organize the communities we are in. The results have indeed been very encouraging.

Why so? Because unlike "classical" community organizing, which can take years and considerable man-hours, the FWWPP's Education Revolution community organizing process requires three steps only.

Step One. Get the school head's commitment in writing.

Step Two. Form an Education Working Group. OD (organization development) people call this the Change Management Team.

Step Three. Convene a barangay level assembly for strategic planning.

Can we really make a difference? There are over 40,000 public schools today and they obviously need all the help they can get. How can we reach all of them?

Resource holders, like the LCF and the PBEd, as well as the DepEd through Secretary Lapus, have made it known that they are determined to meet the education crisis head-on.

We have proposed an achievement-oriented national goal for education: 57 percent to 75 percent in five years, and no school below 60 percent.

To help put an end to the education crisis, this should be the goal of every Filipino who believes that our country, our people and our children deserve the best that the future has to offer.

Eugenia Duran Apostol is the board chair of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

More Philippine history reminders for Filipinos

I NEARLY SHED TEARS OF JOY WHILE reading Ramon Farolan's column titled "Balangiga and Catubig." (PDI, 10/15/06) For a brief moment, I felt so proud of my country.

The government should invest heavily not only in books on Math and Science but also on Social Sciences and Philippine History. Knowledge of our country's past will make most of our youth aware of the sacrifices that our heroes offered for our nation. It will also open the eyes of our people to the real value of nationhood.

I am not advocating that our people adopt a kind of extremist nationalism. What I want is for our government to make a deliberate effort to instill in Filipinos love of country. What really keeps our nation from moving forward is that almost all of us, leaders and ordinary citizens alike, have practically no love for our country. The government refuses to be accountable to its people, while the people don't care about what the government does. There is a yawning gap between the rich and the poor. There is a general sense of depression over the present state of our nation and most of the middle class want to get out of the country in search of greener pastures, leaving behind a country in dire need of their services. Take a look at our skilled workers and professionals.

Our enemy at present is not a foreign invader or colonizer, but our very own selves. We can have a hundred Edsa revolutions but still find ourselves stuck in this mess. Some of us may say, "You can't eat nationalism for breakfast!" But with love of country, coupled with honor, justice and respect, we may yet find ourselves doing something to uplift the quality of life of every Filipino. For us to move on, we must learn to put patriotism in practice. Only then will everything we aspire for as a people fall into place.

Maybe, sometime in the future, we may yet bring the Balangiga bells back home.

—EDWARD FELIX M. DONATO,
edwardfelixdonato@yahoo.com.ph

NOTICE OF HOUSING BONDS MATURITY

We are pleased to inform you that your Pag-IBIG Housing Bonds will mature on **28 November 2006**. Please submit your Pag-IBIG Housing Bonds Certificate/s, duly endorsed, together with the following requirements beginning **01 September 2006 but not later than 27 October 2006:**

1. Two (2) valid ID Cards (photocopy only)
2. Passport (photocopy only), if A Pag-IBIG Overseas Program (POP) member

Note: All original documents must be presented for validation/authentication

The **Pag-IBIG Housing Bonds Certificate/s** together with the requirements may be submitted to any of the following:

1. Pag-IBIG NCR/Provincial branch
2. Pag-IBIG Fund - Treasury Department, 4th Floor Atrium Building of Makati,Makati Ave., Makati City
3. DBP Trust Services Department or any DBP branch
4. For POP investors based abroad, nearest POP post or any authorized POP Information Officer

In case of lost Pag-IBIG Housing Bonds Certificate/s, please execute an Affidavit of Loss and submit together with the other requirements.

Thank you for investing in The Pag-IBIG Housing Bonds.

For further inquiries, please call the Pag-IBIG Treasury Department at telephone numbers 811-4380, 811-4260, or 811-4401 to 27 loc 212; or The Pag-IBIG Call Center at telephone number 724-4244 (Pag-IBIG). You may also visit our website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph

GOOD NEWS! We will soon launch the Pag-IBIG Housing Bonds, Series-2006

25 years of dedicated public service

Meralco action on Coast Guard hangar

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO A NEWS STORY that came out in the Oct. 12 issue of the INQUIRER. It reported that the Coast Guard aviation group's hangar remained without electricity up to that day, 15 days after typhoon Milenyo hit the country.

To verify the report, we sent our emergency crew to check the area. Upon inspection, it was found that the cause of the power outage was at the customer's loadside wires of the main breaker, which was damaged due to a fallen Balete tree. (The hangar is being served by a transformer bank [3-167KVA] which is connected to circuit Malibay 413VY.) The power was normal from the transformer bank to the metering point up to the main breaker of the customer.

Our crew coordinated with Frederick Gacasa of the Philippine Coast Guard and Danny Banta of the Philippine Aerospace Development Corp. They then conducted a meeting with the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) Engineering Division regarding the repair of their loadside.

—ELPI O. CUNA,
vice president,
Corporate Communication,
Meralco, Pasig City

No price manipulation in power spot market

THIS REFERS TO THE OCT. 10 COLUMN of Conrado Banal III.

The speculations on the losses of the National Power Corp. in the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) are just that—speculations, baseless, without proof, bordering on gossip, usually motivated by malice and selfish hidden agendas.

With the WESM still in its infancy, it is premature to assess any participant's performance.

Napocor is not in any way engaged in any price manipulation in the WESM. On the contrary, it has always been in the forefront of the campaign for a system of transparency in the pricing of electricity so that power consumers will know and understand what comprises generation costs.

Napocor does not have a dominant position in terms of market share in the WESM; neither does it have any capability, nor the intention of "lording it over" in the market, much less manipulate prices. The generation capacity that it is trading in the open market does not even constitute the biggest bloc—it's only about 20 percent of all the energy traded in the WESM, almost equal to the share of the independent power producers of Meralco.

On the other hand, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), which has four trading teams, handles the portfolio of the IPPs—about 60 percent of the total generation capacity being traded in the WESM.

Given the stringent rules and guidelines that govern the operation of the WESM, it would be improbable for any participant to engage in any form of price manipulation. These rules were formulated precisely to protect participants as well as preserve and maintain the integrity of the open market.

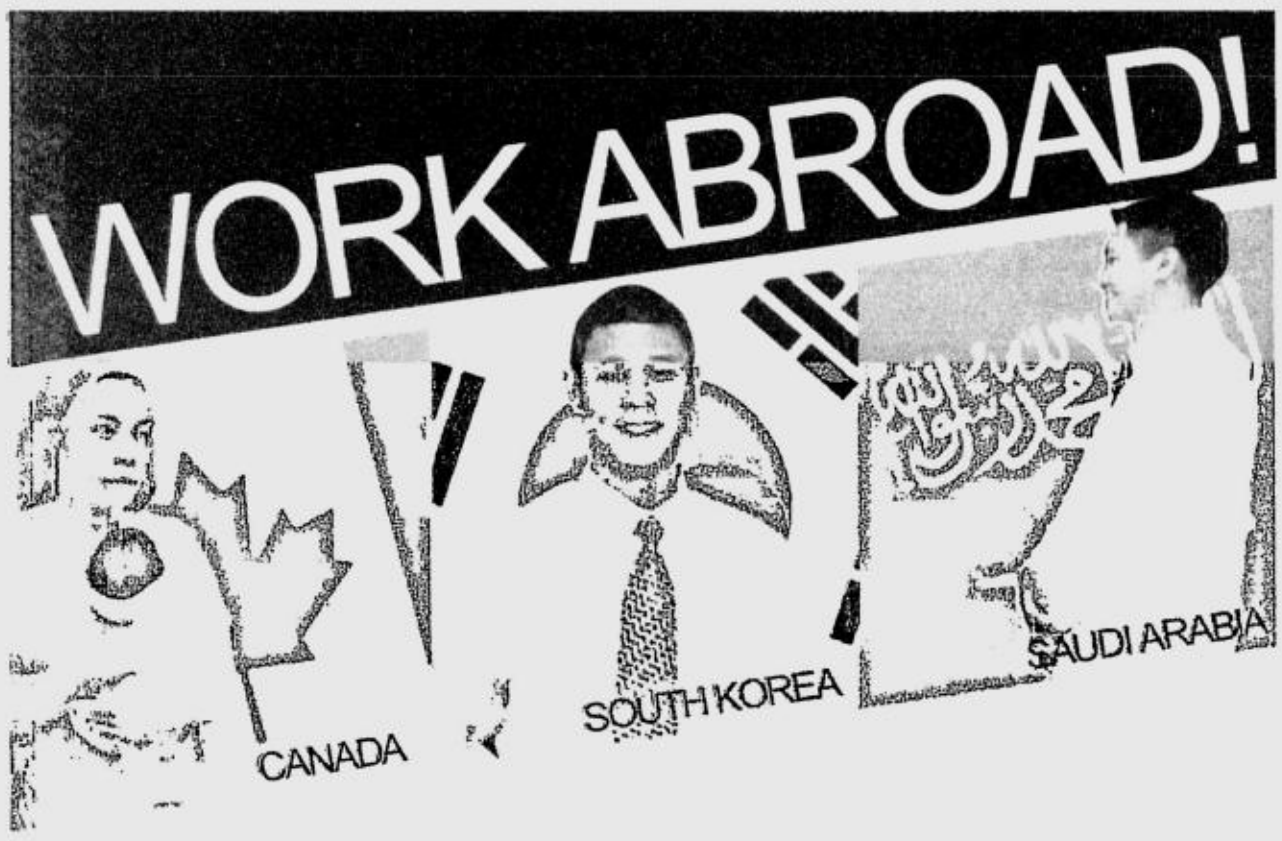
Our bid prices are within the range of our time-of-use (TOU) rates that were approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission. These rates are lowest in the market today. We also invite Banal to look at the records of the WESM (website at www.wesm.ph), which clearly show the facts with respect to the bids submitted by our trading teams.

We in the Napocor have long heard from Banal about this so-called "Mafia" within Napocor. But like in the case of the Loch Ness monster, there is no proof of its existence. If Banal has proof, we invite him to produce it. The same with his accusations of graft and corruption. We will be more than happy to accompany him to the proper venue to present this proof.

Napocor is turning 70 in November. Through its entire existence, we have always maintained professionalism, sincerity, honesty and quality service in all our dealings with our stakeholders. Banal's claims of corruption attacks the thousands of Napocor employees who have devoted a major part of their lives to making sure that power flows into every home, business, health, religious and leisure facilities in our country.

As a journalist, Banal should bear in mind that journalism deals with facts, not speculation and gossip.

—DENNIS S. GANA,
manager,
Corporate Communications,
National Power Corp.,
Diliman, Quezon City



A 'true-blue' Atenean's behavior in public service

I WAS WATCHING ON TV THE SENATE INVESTigation of the Philippine Commission on Good Government, specifically on the allegation that the PCGG nominees in the Philcomsat board have been dissipating company funds and assets.

In that investigation, I heard PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio arrogantly declare that he, too—not only Sen. Richard Gordon—was a graduate of the Ateneo. By the manner that Sabio disrespectfully answered and disrupted the Senate investigation, I would say that he is a half-baked Atenean. His ungentlemanly and rude conduct during the hearing tarnished the good name and reputation of the Ateneo itself.

How could he claim to be an Atenean when he condones all the corruption and fraud going on under his very nose at the Philcomsat? He is even trying to protect his allegedly corrupt nominees by telling them not to attend the ongoing Senate inquiry?

As far as I am concerned, Sabio is not a "true-blue" Atenean. He is, in fact, a disgrace to the Ateneo, a prestigious institution of learning. From his behavior, I could see that he did not finish his high school at the Ateneo.

For the information of the Filipino public, the "blue-blooded" Atenean is one who officially graduated from the Ateneo High School—one who had passed a very competitive entrance examination and took and went through his entire high school course—from first year to fourth year—at the Ateneo itself. Ateneo high school is different from the Ateneo college, where one can enroll in any year level.

But one thing that the Filipino public can be assured of: all Ateneo alumni went through very intense religious guidance from the ever-caring Jesuit fathers. I know that Gordon is a bona fide graduate of the Ateneo de Manila High School. I am not sure of the exact year he graduated, but during our Ateneo High School Batch '52 Golden Jubilee celebration last December 2002, I saw him on stage addressing and congratulating the Batch '77 Silver Jubilarians and our Batch '52 Golden Jubilarians. On that same occasion, I also saw on stage a big, fat fellow who claimed to be an Atenean. But the way I personally see him today, he is just a disgrace to my alma mater.

I am addressing this to all the blue-blooded Ateneans who are in public service—whether he/she is a senator, congressman, a Supreme Court justice, a judge, a local government official, or a Cabinet member—we can all be proud to be called Ateneans if we do not condone and encourage graft and corruption, illegal gambling, cheating in elections, human rights violations and disrespect for our Constitution.

As for those Ateneans who support and are in cahoots with the present administration, shame on you all! You were not taught by our Jesuit fathers to compromise with the devil.

—ANTONIO M. GARCIA SR.,
Ateneo High School Class of 1952

Must Asiad be an opportunity for junkets?

IT MYSTIFIES ME NO END WHY WE HAVE TO send so many officials and coaches to international sporting events. For the 267 athletes participating in the Doha Asian Games, we need to bring along 133 coaches and officials? That is an athlete to coach/official ratio of 2:1! Do our coaches and officials compete in their individual events and win gold medals for the country?

Yet it seems that we do not have the funds to pay for everyone in the contingent. It is pretty clear to me that we should be polite to the Asiad organizers and reduce the size of our contingent. Let's cut down on the number of officials and the coaches that we will be sending to Doha, Qatar. Otherwise, the coming Asiad will be like the previous ones—it will just be a junket.

—EPHRAIM FERMIN,
8506 Gila Ct., Alexandria, VA 22309 USA

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Grameen spirit alive in Central Luzon

From page A1

began in Bangladesh in 1976. The bias for poor borrowers also holds true here.

"Loans go to us, poor women," Agbunag said when she and 26 other women from the flood-prone village of San Nicolas in Minalin town received their group's loan of P195,000 on Friday.

This was the seventh time since 2003 that Agbunag's group renewed a loan from Talete Ning Panyulung Kapampangan Inc. (Bridge for the Progress of Kapampangan Inc.) under its Alternative Livelihood Opportunities for Women (Alow).

"It's an adaptation of what Dr. Yunus has started," said Fr. Ed Panlilio, who founded TPKI in 1987.

DIRECTORS and staff members of Talete Ning Panyulung Kapampangan Inc., which adopted the Grameen Bank concept in Pampanga and spread it to other parts of Central Luzon. TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

P1-B loan portfolio

Adopted 10 years ago at the instance of the Alliance of Philippine Partners in Enterprise Development, TPKI has helped groups of women, with a total membership of 16,602, and 2,639 individual borrowers, mostly women, in Pampanga, Tarlac, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija.

The loan portfolio since 1987 has reached a total of P1 billion, with Alow taking the bulk of the fund. Loans from January to September this year amounted to P154.4 million, an average of P17 million monthly.

Money borrowed ranges from P3,000 to P10,000, at a 2.5-percent interest monthly or a fourth of what usurers charge. Lent out for a six-month term, the loan is paid in weekly installments.

The repayment rate is 92 percent, said Noel Alipio, TPKI assistant executive director for operations. He said the TPKI could sustain itself now due to the P20 in weekly capital buildup fund contributed by each member.

Gina Marin, director for administration and finance, said TPKI had stopped borrowing capital from People's Credit Finance Corp. since 1998 and Land Bank of the Philippines and Care Philippines since 2002.

Emergency needs

Members can withdraw their contributions to the capital buildup fund when they no longer depend on loans or when they want to meet emergency needs so they won't spend the loans on these.

Clients are also covered by insurance or are entitled to burial assistance worth P35,000.

The TPKI reaches more women through branches in Apalit, Guagua, Mabalacat and Sta. Ana towns in Pampanga; Baliuag town and Malolos City in Bulacan; and Capas town and Tarlac City in Tarlac.

It has grown from the P6,600 pooled from the contributions of the founding board members—Willie Vergara, Dandy Cabral, Frank Ignacio, Rev. Elias Talavera, lawyer Avelino Gorospe, Fer Caylao, Kits Lapid and Luisa Panlilio.

Its three-member staff has grown to 100. From the individual lending program, it has offered Alow and then housing loan for victims of Mount Pinatubo's 1991 eruptions, by far the worst natural disaster that hit Pampanga and other provinces of Central Luzon.

Easing poverty

More than the good marks, it is what those loans do to the lives of the women and their families that matters most.

"*Maragul yang saup* (It gives big help). My husband was out of work for two straight years but we were able to survive through the P3,000 loan I took. What I earned from selling went to buying food and school supplies for the kids," Agbunag, a mother of four, said.

When her husband found work in a bottling company, Agbunag set aside part of her earnings for selling candles, meat and beauty products. She preferred being self-employed because jobs for a college undergraduate like her are hard to find.

"You own your time and you can do more ventures," she said of not being on the employ of others.

Collateral-free loan

Agbunag is relieved that she can get loans although she does not have any collateral. The loan is guaranteed at first by the group to which she belongs and later by her reputation of being able to pay on time. She now can borrow up to P5,000.

Rosie Carpio, 46, started her rice retail business with P5,000. "My husband's income as a jeepney driver did not suffice. More than half of his income went to paying the boundary (payment to the jeep's owner) so I needed to work to at least come up with the rice for the family," Carpio said.

As her family got a steady supply of rice, Carpio was able to shoulder her son Ricardo's fare to school. Ricardo earned a civil engineering degree last year and found work in the government. He's helping his parents send his younger siblings to school.

Woman factor

"These women are usually nonbankable clients but it is they whom we choose to work with for the following reasons: They have a high sense of dignity. They carry much of the burden of raising their families, and they're easy to locate in their homes," Alipio said.

"At this point, TPKI and its partners (the borrowers) are able to only ease poverty. We still haven't totally eradicated it or help them bridge the poverty line," he said, citing the gravity of poverty in rural areas.

Still, there is another aspect that grows in these microenterprise ventures. "The value of *misaup-saup* (helping each other) has been strengthened and they grow spiritually together. This is the spirit of ecumenism. We've got to have a holistic approach against poverty. It is not enough to have economic liberation," Panlilio said.

TPKI took root when residents in poor communities being organized by the Archdiocese of San Fernando began expressing their need to gain access to loans to improve their lives.

Ecumenism

The first NGO that the archdiocese approached, the Tulay sa Pag-unlad Inc., suggested that the loan program be organized by reaching out to various Christian believers, not only Catholics.

How diverse the members can be is mirrored by the composition of TPKI's current board of directors. Four are Protestants, two are Catholics, and one is a Born Again Christian.

Partners gather once a week to hold Bible studies, prayers, personality development and leadership training, according to Alipio. Many did not only become entrepreneurs but also community leaders.

Collective spirit

Christopher Diaz, a 31-year-old project officer, said he had seen the "collective spirit" in action.

In many cases when members were unable to pay, their colleagues motivated them to go trying and not lose hope. When that failed, they assumed the debt, grudgingly of course, but still gave borrowers a second but not a third chance.

"In a group in San Simon, the women pooled P2,000 for a member whose husband died. Because their friend was tired from the wake and burial, they went out of their way to take turns doing the laundry for her," Diaz said.

"You see women bonding in times of need," he said.

MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Project Reference Number
Name of the Project
Brgy. # 6 San Julian, Batac, Ilocos Norte

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Revised on July 28, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	"Procurement of Drugs and Medicines, Medical/Surgical, Dental & X-ray Supplies, Laboratory Supplies & Reagents and Medical Equipment"
Location	Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center – Training Center, Batac, Ilocos Norte
Brief Description	Procurement of Various Drugs & Medicines, Med /Surgical, Dental & X-ray Supplies, Laboratory Supplies and Reagents and Medical Equipment used for daily maintenance and operations
Approved Budget For the Contract & Source of Fund	a Drugs & Medicines = Php 25,080,000.00 (Revolving Fund, Oxygen Fund & Regular Fund) b Laboratory Supplies and Reagents = Php 6,101,000.00 (Regular fund, Income Fund, Crossmatching) c Med / Surgical, Dental & X-ray Supplies = Php 8,384,500.00 (Regular fund, Income Fund, Hemo Trust Fund) d Medical Equipment = Php 5,057,259.00 (Income, LBP-Medicare Trust fund)
Contract Duration	180 DAYS
Delivery Period	January 01 – June 30, 2007

For Contracts involving delivery of goods

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR)

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows

	Activities	Schedule
1	Issuance of Bid Documents	October 30 – November 17, 2006
2	Pre-bid Conference	November 6, 2006
3	Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility (*if single-stage bidding is used, delete this Activity*)	October 30 – November 17, 2006
4	Opening of Bids	November 21 – 23, 2006
5	Bid Evaluation	November 24 – December 08, 2006
6	Post-qualification	December 11 – 18, 2006
7	Notice of Award	December 20 – January 2007

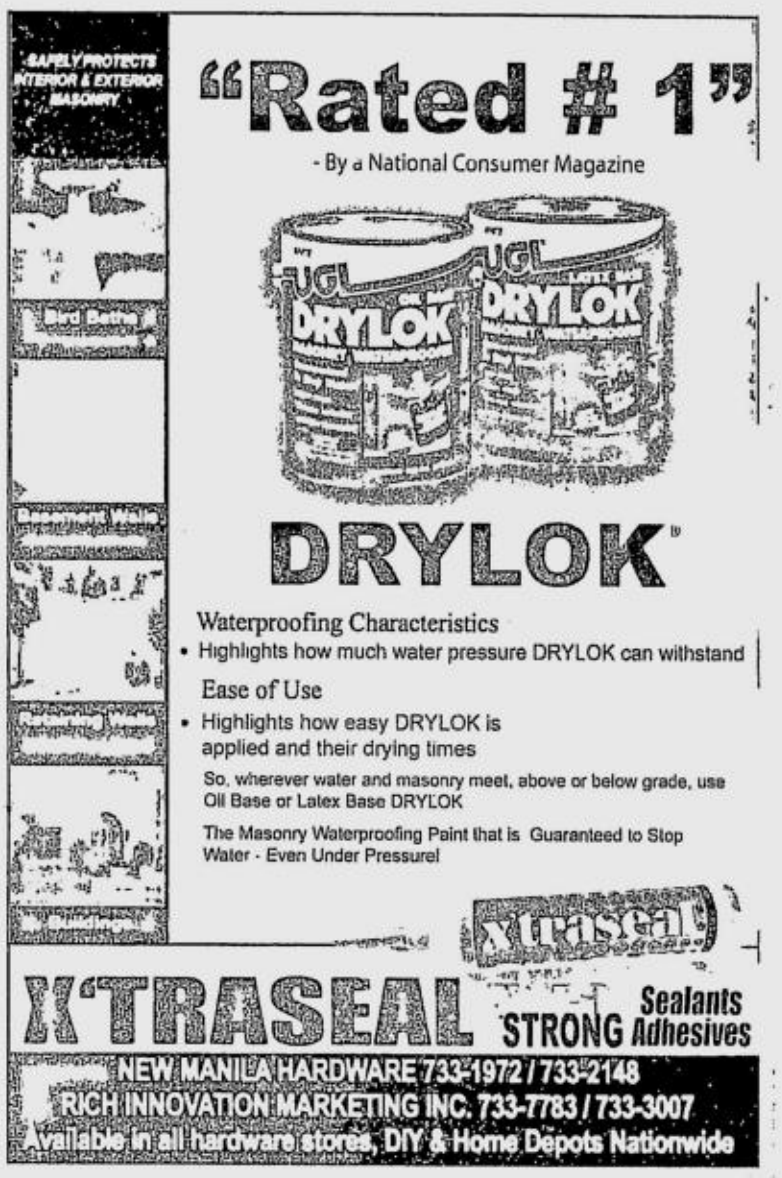
Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS only (Php 2,500.00) to the Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center Cashier

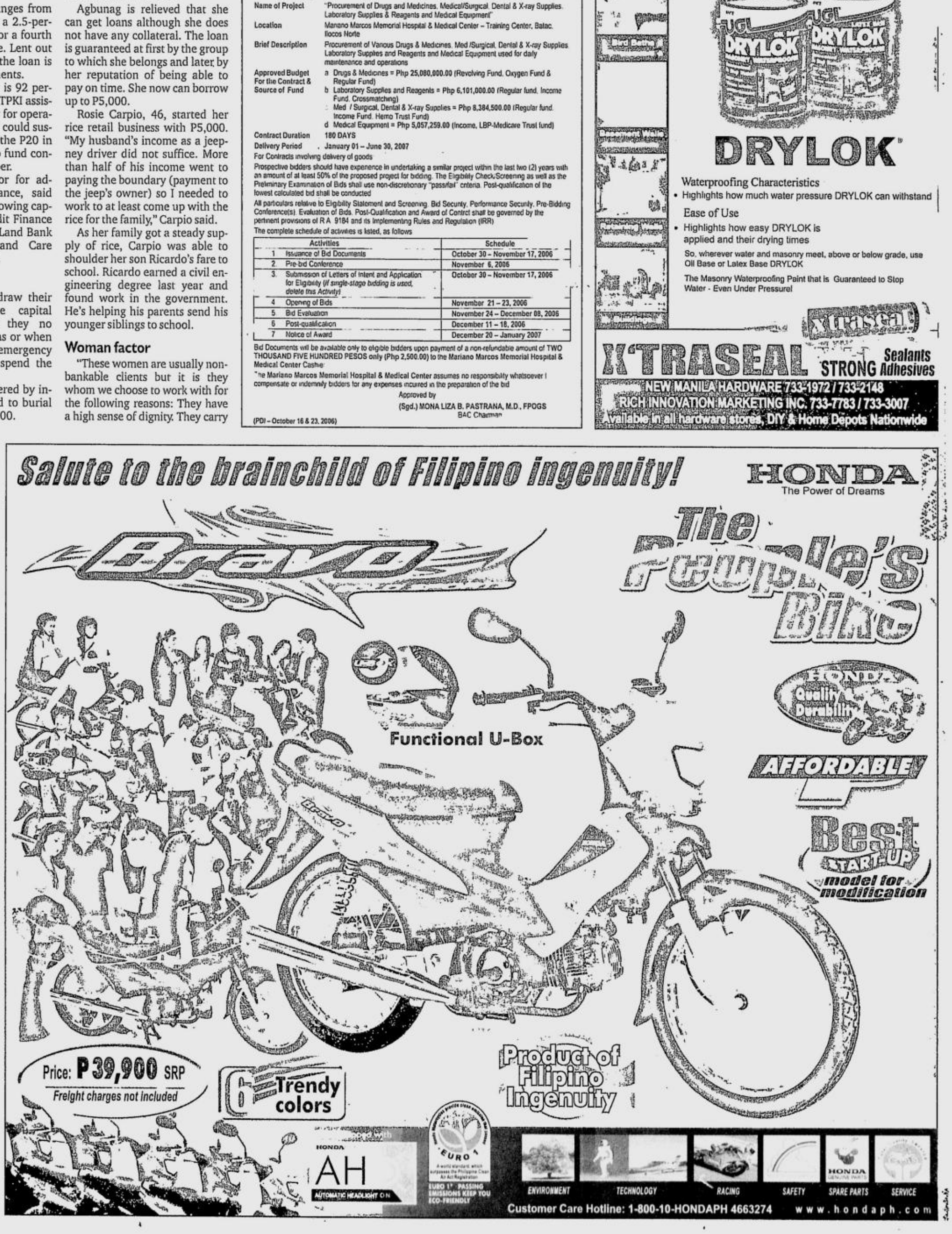
The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever / compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid

Approved by

(Sgd.) MONA LIZA B. PASTRANA, M.D., FPOGS
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 16 & 23, 2006)





METRO PACIFIC
thinking ahead

October 23, 2006

THE SHAREHOLDERS OF METRO PACIFIC CORPORATION:

This is to advise you that Metro Pacific Investments Corporation ("MPIC") is making a tender offer for the common shares of Metro Pacific Corporation ("MPC"). More specifically, MPIC is offering to acquire all the common shares of the MPC minority shareholders at the exchange ratio of one (1) MPIC common share, plus three (3) warrants to purchase up to three (3) MPIC common shares at P1.00 per share, for every four (4) MPC common shares. In the event that the number of MPC shares tendered by an MPC Minority Shareholder is not entirely divisible by 4, MPIC will acquire any extra MPC shares for a cash consideration of P0.25 per share for up to a maximum of three (3) shares.

The said tender offer is tentatively scheduled to begin on October 27, 2006, and end on November 28, 2006.

MPIC shall be sending you by courier an information package that will contain: i) an Information Memorandum on MPIC; (ii) the description of the tender offer and its terms and conditions; (iii) the application forms for the tender offer.

Very truly yours,

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
METRO PACIFIC INVESTMENTS CORPORATION

Human costs of N. Korean nuclear blackmail

From page A1

sive dictatorship in a state which US President George W. Bush called a member of the trinity "axis of evil"—together with Iran and Iraq (before the capture of Saddam Hussein).

Club rules ignored

North Korea became the ninth country to join the nuclear club, after the United States, Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan and Israel.

Although the bomb, according to US experts, had a yield of "less than a kiloton"—less than a tenth of the size of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945—North Korea has refused to be bound by nuclear club rules. It had rejected the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that put its signing members under inspection and control on their weapons programs.

After the test, Kim has been rattling the bomb in pursuit of his domestic and foreign policies—forcing the United Nations a week ago to pass the resolution imposing mainly economic sanctions and an inspection of vessels moving into or out of North Korea. The resolution fell short of authorizing the United Nations to take retaliatory military measures.

Inspecting ships

The resolution:

- Banned the sale to, or export from, North Korea of military hardware, sale or export of nuclear and missile-related items, and sale of luxury goods.
- Froze finances and banned travel of anyone involved in nuclear missile programs.

The effectiveness of these sanctions depends greatly on the willingness of Asian countries directly concerned with the North Korean nuclear threat to inspect ships or vessels to blockade the movement of the banned material.

Inspection of cargo at sea is feared to elevate tensions and provoke naval clashes.

Cognac newest weapon

This article highlights one aspect of the sanction—that banning the export of luxury goods to North Korea. This section provides revealing insights into the nature of Kim's regime. It is an attack on one of his human weaknesses.

A story by Bloomberg says that cognac was the "newest weapon" in the fight to end North Korean's atomic push. "The United Nations is hitting Kim Jong-il where it hurts," the story says, by "cutting off trade in the luxury goods favored by the North Korean dictator and his entourage."

Kim, his family and members of North Korea's ruling class fancy Mercedes-Benz cars, Henessy cognac and French wines, according to Michael Breen, author of "Kim Jong-il: North Korea's Dear Leader."

They buy goods abroad and bring them back to a country locked in poverty where annual per-capita income is $914.

"The idea is to punish the leaders and not the people," says Jean-Baptise Mattei, a spokesperson at the French foreign ministry in Paris. "It's a way to hit the nomenklatura, who are the only ones who can travel abroad and consume these goods."

Military first

The UN resolution also banned travel by the families of officials linked to the country's nuclear program, the Bloomberg report says. "The North Korean population has been losing height and weight over the years, and maybe this will be a little diet for Kim Jong-il," US Ambassador to the UN John Bolton is reported to have told reporters.

Kim, 64, succeeded his father as leader of North Korea in 1994, and had followed a policy he called "military first," giving the Korean People's Army—his major source of support—first choice on resources even as the population suffered famine in the 1990s. The food shortages killed as many as 2 million people, according to the US Agency for International Development.

200 Mercedes cars

According to a country report on the website of the UN's Rome-based World Food Program, "many of the country's 23 million people struggle to feed themselves on a diet critically deficient in protein, fats and micronutrients."

Kim's inner circle stocks up on their favorite goodies through fake trading companies in China or during official trips abroad, according to the report.

Kim owns 200 Mercedes S-Class cars and has a personal net worth of $4 billion, partially amassed from trafficking drugs and missiles and from counterfeiting, according to a Sept. 28 report from the US House of Representatives' Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

During the 1990s, North Korea spent $24 million buying watches and $1.3 million on French perfume, according to the Korea Times in its Oct. 13 online edition.

Patience runs deep in RP call centers

From page A1

for more details and learned that the customer had purchased a computer. Realizing the folly of the complaint, he replied: "I'm sorry, sir, but the computer doesn't come with a cup holder."

"Yes, it does," replied the American, sounding even more irritated. "In fact, I'm using it now, right in front of me, and it has a hole in the middle!"

"No, sir. That's the CD-ROM."

Another Filipino agent received a similar complaint. A fuming customer wanted to know why his new computer, straight from the box, wouldn't turn on.

He apparently didn't realize that computers had to be plugged in first.

And so with another furious customer who thundered that his new laptop wasn't working. "Have you tried putting in a battery?" the Filipino agent politely asked. Probably red-faced, the customer hung up.

Silly, out-of-this-world queries are testing the patience of call center employees. But this is probably where Filipinos are making a noticeable distinction over their American or Indian counterparts.

Generally more patient

"Filipinos are generally more patient and hospitable," said Jun Leido, who has worked in the industry in different capacities for six years. He began as an agent, became a manager and later director for international liaison.

Maurice, 30, another long-timer in technical support, agreed: "Even if the query is really absurd, if not outright stupid, we really empathize with the customers and find ways to solve their problems."

Not that American or Indian agents are impolite or impatient, it's just that Filipinos seem to have a "longer thread" when it comes to dealing with prickly and demanding customers.

Maurice recalled dealing with an American customer who introduced himself as a "software engineer for eight years." His problem was an error message that popped up on his computer screen. He blamed the company for the error, insisting that he had done nothing unusual.

Unlike American agents who would immediately dismiss unfounded complaints, Maurice said he offered to "walk around" the angry customer. Later, he asked the customer to send the company a "screen shot" of the error message so it could offer a more specific solution or explanation.

That's when Maurice got the impression that the customer was a fraud.

"First, he didn't know where the Start button of the computer was," he recalled in an interview with the INQUIRER on Saturday night. "Then, he sent us a shot of the computer screen using a camera."

A real software engineer, Maurice said, would have known by instinct that a camera was unnecessary. "He could have just pressed the Print Screen key and pasted the image on his e-mail."

Another instance saw Maurice receiving a complaint about a "defective" keyboard. After patient accommodation, he found out that the customer had plugged the keyboard into another CPU.

For such endurance in the face of silly queries, his team of Philippine-based agents always got better feedback from customers than their US-based counterparts, Maurice said.

He considered the acclaim a quiet boost to the Philippine call center industry, which was recently described as the country's next "gold mine" by Rainerio Borja, a director of the Contact Center Association of the Philippines.

Speaking at the Call Center Conference and Expo 2006 in June, Borja estimated that the annual industry earnings would increase to $7.3 billion from the current $2.6-billion annual revenue.

Customer relations

For front-liners like Leido and Maurice, consistently good customer relations will be a major factor.

Lately, though, Leido said Filipino agents were being asked by the company's "American principals" to somehow cut short the vaunted Filipino hospitality and do it the "American way."

That is, he and Maurice explained, to call a spade a spade. That means, too, telling a disgruntled customer (in a polite way, of course) that a complaint is unfounded. "I'm sorry, sir, but we don't support that system" is a common reply to queries in the field of software, Maurice said.

Leido said American companies want Filipino agents to limit the "average handle time" (AHT) since "longer calls mean higher cost."

He said five minutes was the average AHT for customer service calls, three minutes for order-taking like in home-TV shopping, and 8-10 minutes for in-bound sales, such as computer purchases.

"In a way, American principals want us to limit our supposed hospitality," he said.

Ablerex UPS
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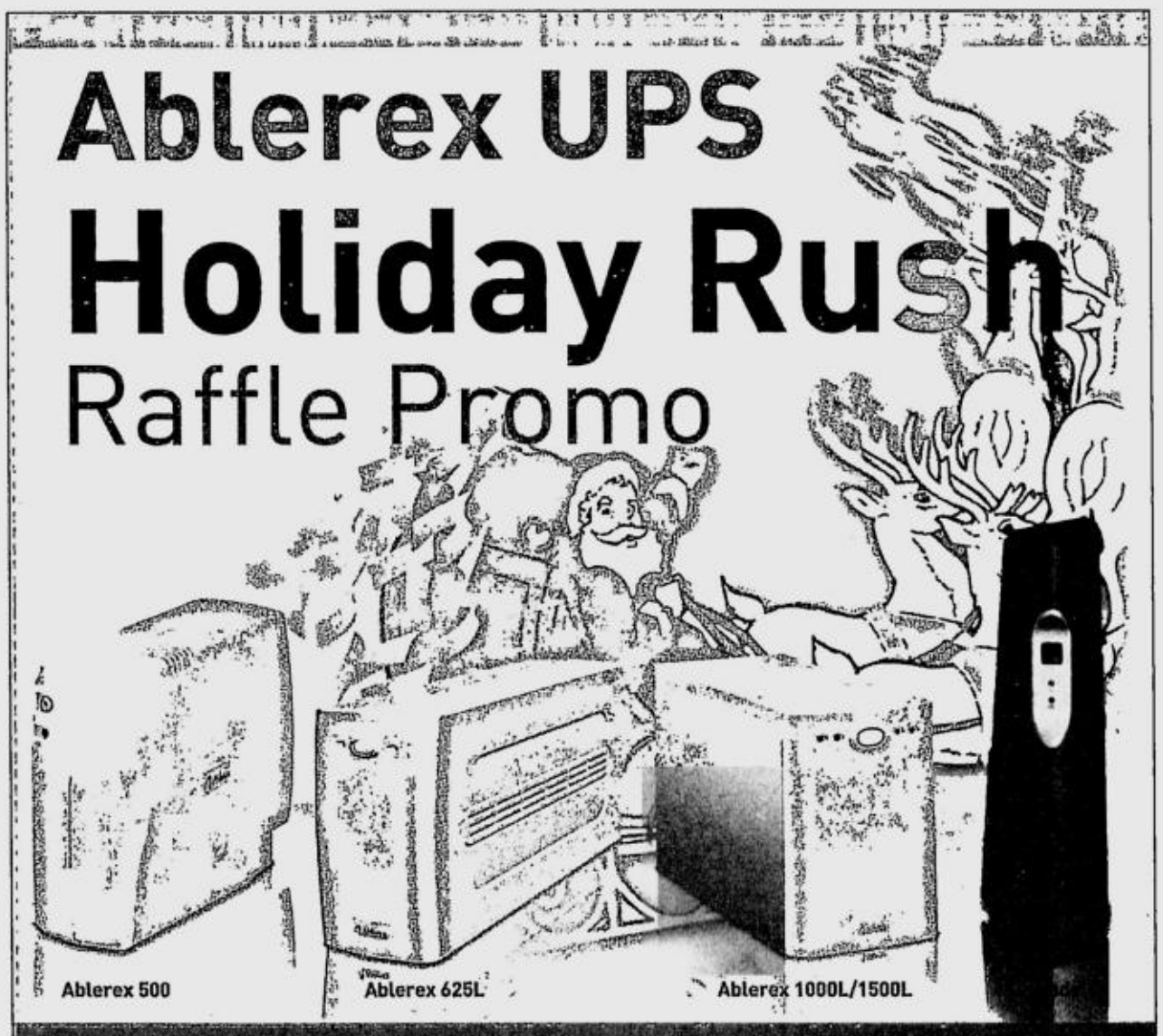

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   *Blade *Ablerex 1000L
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4. Deadline of submission of entries: December 10, 2006, 6:00p.m.
5. Prizes include the following:
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   10 Consolation Prizes : Ablerex Blade (5 units), Ablerex 500 (5 units)
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7. Draw date is on December 15, 2006, 3:00p.m. at Banbros Commercial Inc. office located at 3/F BB Corporate Centre, 32 Pilar corner Araullo Streets, Addition Hills, San Juan, Metro Manila.
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Dynamite fishers frighten 'butanding'

LUCENA CITY—AT LEAST TWO WHALE SHARKS (*Rhincodon typus*), locally known as "butanding," have been sighted in the Tayabas Bay off coastal villages of this city.

Glenn Forbes, coastal and marine program officer of the environmentalist group Tanggol Kalikasan, yesterday said the sightings were reported by "Bantay Dagat" volunteers in barangays Ransohan and Barra.

"We were told that the two whale sharks, measuring at least six feet in length, had been frequenting the area for the past two months," Forbes told the INQUIRER.

He said the gentle creatures, the world's biggest fish, were feeding on planktons in shallow areas of the bay facing this city up to Barangay Laiya in San Juan, Batangas.

However, Forbes lamented that the return of illegal fishing activities in Tayabas, particularly dynamite fishing, had been causing stress to the whale sharks.

"The sightings have been getting rare due to the return of dynamite fishers. Lately, the whale sharks were no longer spotted near the shore but in the open sea. The blast seemed to have caused them great anxiety," he said.

Forbes said his group would immediately conduct an education and information campaign in all fishing villages to underscore the importance of maintaining the presence of the "butanding." *Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

MILF says talks may collapse with filing of bomb charges

COTABATO CITY—THE CHIEF PEACE negotiator of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday warned that the continued inclusion of its chair, Ebrahim Murad and other front's members in the criminal complaints in connection with recent bombings in Central Mindanao might lead to the collapse of peace talks.

"There is only one way to ease the tension and anxiety brought about by this ironic twist of event. That is to drop immediately the names of MILF leaders and members mentioned in the baseless criminal complaints relating to the Tacurong and Makilala bombing incidents," MILF chief negotiator Mohaqher Iqbal said in his letter to his counterpart in the government, Silvestre Afable.

The INQUIRER managed to acquire a copy of the letter dated Oct. 21.

"We cannot understand why a lower local government and police officials can defy the Arroyo administration on such national policy on the primacy of the peace process. As a matter of fact, this is one of our serious concerns in our peace talks, that decisions of the national government can be effectively blocked or easily set aside by local officials," Iqbal said.

Explosions

Six people died while dozens of others were injured in the explosions that hit Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat and Makilala town in North Cotabato two weeks ago.

Police have filed a murder complaint on Tuesday against Murad and several suspected MILF commanders for allegedly plotting the bombing in Makilala.

"As stated in your letter, you believe he (Murad) would never be involved in such a heinous act and that the accusations against him hold any water. Murad is such a person of fairness, justice, and moderation that we know for more than 30 years as comrades in the MILF struggle. We know he did not and will never commit that criminal act, both as a personal conviction and on the basis of the MILF Islamic ideology and policies," Iqbal said in the letter.

At the same time, Iqbal said Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. and Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon had clarified that linking the MILF to the bombings are mere speculations.

"We consider it as the biggest insult to Chairman Murad, both as a person and as a leader. We cannot understand why such a bizarre justice system will ever happen in the Arroyo administration. We thought this was only possible under the ousted Estrada administration. This issue will be deliberated upon by the MILF Central Committee," Iqbal pointed out.

In Baguio City, Esperon said he still doubted the testimony offered by government witnesses that Murad ordered the Oct. 10 bombing.

He said government investigators were validating that information.

Esperon, who was in Fort del Pilar on Saturday as guest during the 108th founding anniversary of the Philippine Military Academy, said based on his recollection as former Army brigade commander in Mindanao, Makilala is too far from territories that Murad frequented.

"There is nothing conclusive," he said.

Monitoring

Esperon said a joint action task force represented by Brig. Gen. Mohammad Ben Dolorfino is monitoring the impact of the government's charges against Murad on the MILF peace talks.

The talks, conducted in Kuala Lumpur, were stalled over an MILF proposal to cede to them 1,000 villages located outside the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Esperon said.

Dureza on Saturday said that Malacañang would not dip its hands into the issue.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo was letting investigators do their job to determine whether there was evidence to charge Murad in connection with the explosions.

Supt. Marcelo Pintac, chief of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in North Cotabato, said the police have a witness against Murad.

"A witness told investigators that it was him (Murad) who ordered the conduct of bombings," Pintac said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao; with a report from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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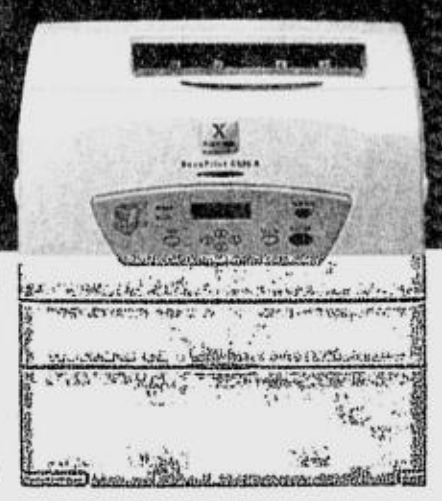

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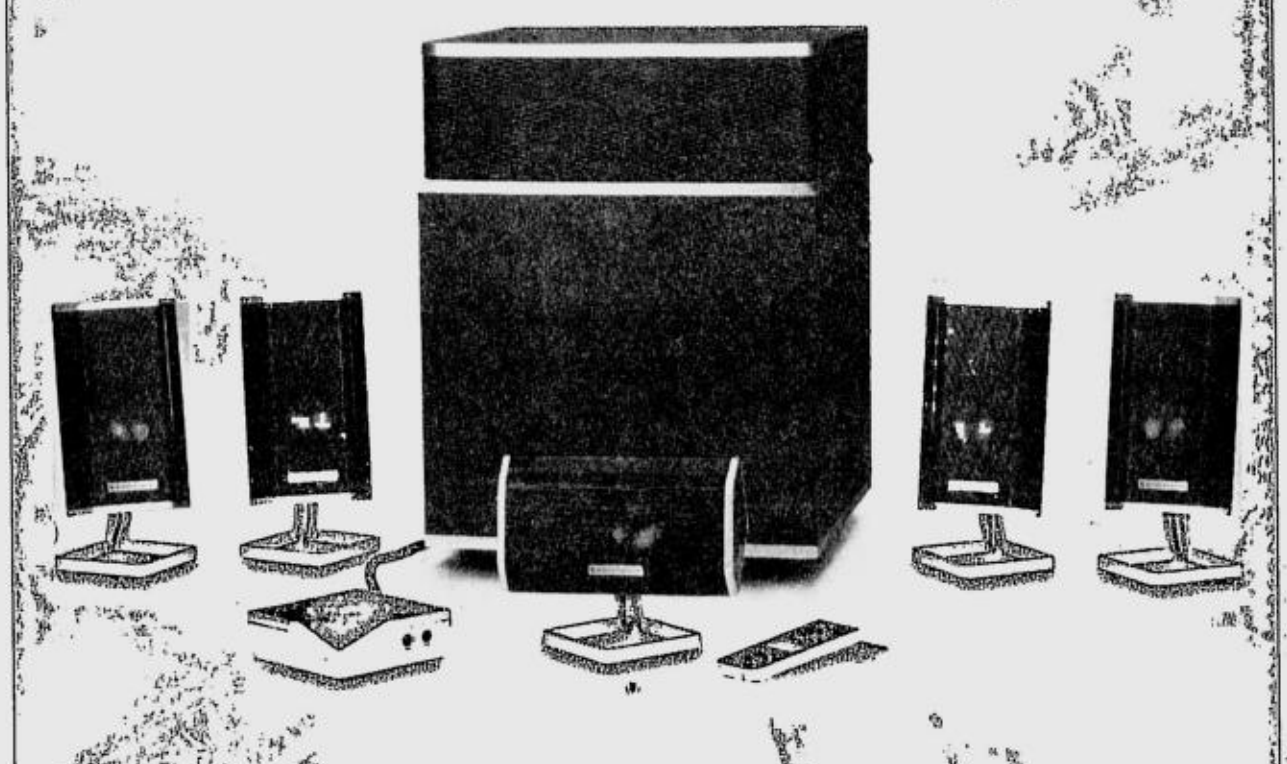

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S.O.S. SORSOGON

Another P100,000 check was received dated Oct. 20! Thanks this time from ROBERTO "BOBBY" AREVALO GANA FOUNDATION INC. This foundation was set up by his family to honor Bobby, a dedicated labor lawyer, who died in a plane crash eight years ago.

Thanks, too, to Loida Nicalos Lewis for P50,000 which comes with many other projects she has been doing for her native province, Sorsogon.

Other contributions are P5,000 from L and V; P2,000 from Techie V., P500 from A.P. Fajardo; P5,000 from Jose Grajo; P1,000 from Gloria Mirasol; P500 from Clare Gineta; P10,000 from Corazon Moraleda; Ophelia Diaz, P1,000; Alice Vytiaco, P3,000; Maria Clara Campos, P2,000; Teresita Agbayani, P2,000 and students of the Sacred Heart Kindergarten Montessori School, P7,810.

The current total collection: P1,442,570.

The latest report from help given out by S.O.S. Sorsogon thru Fr. Gerard Deveza and Councilor David Duran is: 340 house owners helped in Sorsogon City with building materials and six houses built for invalid elderly; 10,000 nipa roofing materials sent for 100 homes in Prieto Diaz c/o Mayor Benito Doma and 15,000 nipa roofing materials for 50 homes sent to Casiguran c/o Mayor Edwin Hamor.

S.O.S. Sorsogon has written an appeal to United Laboratories c/o Alberto Manlapit and Jose Maria Echavi for milk, vitamins, antibiotics and children's medication.

For particulars please call Florinda Duran-Pagsanghan, 920-1817, Ella Duran-Nolasco, 646-9980, Azucena Grajo Uranza, 928-9844 or 313-0810 and Fr. Gerard Deveza at 0918-0998925. Cash or checks may be deposited at any branch of Bank of the Philippine Islands Account number 0011168701.

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Guyito joins Bicol scholars

GOA, CAMARINES SUR—AMID THE cool breeze, administration officials, faculty members and students of the Philippine Science High School-Bicol Region Campus warmly welcomed the INQUIRER team that turned over the Guyito carabao replica to the community of science and math scholars on Oct. 19.

The replica, sculptured by Juan Sajid Imao and painted by renowned artist Wilfredo Offemaria Jr., was cheered and wildly applauded by the family of 278 scholars who live inside a 6-hectare campus on the slope of Mt. Isarog about 170 meters above sea level.

Students excitedly watched the unveiling of Guyito, which had been wrapped in a white cloth since it arrived on the second week of September.

All Pisayanos, as residents of the PSHS-BRC are popularly called, were told not to destroy the package or peep into it.

Inspiration

Their curiosity were doused when the Guyito mascot was finally unwrapped and turned over to the school after two postponements.

"It's great to finally see a carabao not plowing the fields outside our school, but a carabao which we can be proud of and from which we can get inspiration from," said Armin Clement Chavez, a student.

"Guyito is not only this painted carabao. It is a symbol of intelligence, excellence and so much more. It is a challenge to keep up the good work of our institution. And we won't be disappointing Guyito," said student William del Rosario.

"It touched hearts and challenged intellects to see Guyito and have passionate people from a privileged publication share their ideas with us," said Juliane Moira Sy, associate editor of The Bicol Scholar, official English publication of the PSHS-BRC.

Difficult times

In her acceptance speech, Elsie Ferrer, officer in charge of the Director's Office, said the faculty, staff, and scholars welcomed Guyito "with open arms and hearts to our home."

"Like the PDI mascot, this campus, too, has withstood worst conditions but has never given up to achieve excellence," she said.

Of Guyito, she said, "it is not only a symbol of knowledge, excellence and hard work, which this campus has always tried to instill among its students. It is also a manifestation of Pisay-Bicol's resiliency during difficult times and its steadfast commitment to truth and service to our country."

Ferrer said the painting of Offemaria resembled the real PSHS scholar—inventive, creative and innovative—similar to the boy with the tin can as his telephone.

Guyito's horn, she said, "resembles our weapon in fighting for excellence and quest for truth and knowledge, and not that which anyone may use in fighting for a wrong purpose."

Ferrer said the administration planned to put Guyito in the Students' Pavilion, where teachers and students usually gather for programs and activities, so that it would serve as an inspiration and a reminder to students that they have to pursue their goals by capitalizing on their strength, intelligence, hard work, and good character.

"Guyito will serve as 'nonliving' witness to all our achievements and perhaps even failures and problems, which we consider as blessings in disguise for us to learn to survive in this competitive world," she said.

After the turnover ceremonies, the INQUIRER team of John Nery, Inquirer Compact managing editor; Megi Garcia, marketing associate; and Floreño Solmirano, Inquirer Southern Luzon Bureau chief, conducted a seminar on basic journalism for the students and oriented them on the processes involved in publishing the INQUIRER.

Founding anniversary

The PSHS-BRC, which will celebrate its foundation anniversary on Oct. 26-27, is a kilometer away from the town center.

From a small family of scholars and teachers in 1998, its population has grown to 278 scholars, 33 teachers and 13 non-teaching personnel, from the Bicol and Mimaropa (Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan) regions.

Its Robotic team recently won the grand award in the Robot Category of the Fifth Philippine Robotics Olympiad.

The team will represent the Philippines in the International Robotics Olympiad on Nov. 15-19 in Nanjing, China. *Joanna Los Baños and Niño Jesus Orbeta, INQUIRER Southern Luzon*

Ex-cop official, 2 others hacked dead

PAGADIAN CITY—Three people, including a former police official of Zamboanga Sibugay province, were hacked dead in Alicia town on Thursday.

Zamboanga Sibugay police chief Senior Supt. Roseller Arieta said the suspects also beheaded retired Insp. Nain Laja, 58, former police chief of Alicia town.

Arieta identified the other victims as Imam Wahid Lagayan, 50, and Joel Laja, 29, nephew of the former police chief.

He said the victims were having their daybreak meal before fasting during Ramadan when they were attacked. "They were eating when the suspects appeared from behind and hacked them to death," Arieta said. He said the suspects were all workers of the slain retired police officer.

Arieta declined to name the suspects but said police were hunting them down. *Hernan de la Cruz, Inquirer Mindanao*

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Solon urges probe of farmers' dispersal

LUCENA CITY—A MILITANT FARMER LEADER-turned-lawmaker has asked the House committees on agrarian reform and human rights to jointly conduct an investigation into the arrest of 48 activists and the dispersal here on Saturday of farmers and children demanding a bigger crop share in the farm owned by one of the biggest landlords in Quezon province.

"Instead of facing and heeding the legitimate grievances of the farmers, it appears that [San Narciso Mayor Victor Reyes] Reyes used his influence and employed the police and armed civilians to violently disperse the protesting farmers," Rafael Mariano, Anakpawis party-list representative and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chair, said in a statement furnished the INQUIRER.

"Even women and children were not spared. We vehemently condemn this barbaric act," he said.

, Mariano said he would file a resolution upon resumption of Congress early next month for the committees to investigate the incident.

No permit

City police chief Senior Supt. Reuben Theodore Sindac blamed the protesters for the dispersal.

"My men repeatedly appealed for them to disperse because they didn't have the required rally permit or even to stay and pitch camp in the area. They vehemently refused to do so, taunted the police, and even used innocent children as [shield]," Sindac said.

He denied that Mayor Reyes had a hand in the dispersal. "We don't need any order to carry out our task of preserving peace and order."

Mariano also said that agrarian reform officials in the province had a lot of explaining to do over the vast landholdings of the Reyes clan.

"This proves the failure of the Arroyo administration's land reform program," Mariano said, referring to the 18-year-old Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

He demanded that the Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of National Defense, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government scrap Memorandum Circular No. 9 which allows the involvement of police and the military in agrarian cases.

"It is one of the primary justifications and excuses of the government to militarize the countryside and protect even the most despotic landlords. It is also one of the reasons human rights violations and massacres are being endlessly perpetrated against the helpless peasants," Carl Ala, KMP spokesperson, said by phone.

'Quezon 48'

Pamalakaya spokesperson Gerry Albert Corpuz said the case of the "Quezon 48" was one example of the "naked use of state security forces to violate legitimate and basic constitutional rights in the name of state terrorism and class interest of despotic landlords."

A major demand of the farmers is the change in the sharing system in coconut farms from 25-75 in favor of the landlord to 75-25.

Before the arrest, police used water cannon to disperse farmers and activists holding a "people's camp" in front of the family compound of the late Don Domingo Reyes, one of the biggest landlords in the province.

Among those arrested were veteran Quezon activist leader Pedro "Tata Pido" Gonzalez, Pamalakaya national vice chair; Guillermo Bautista, chair of the Katipunan ng Samahang Magsasaka-Timog Katalugan; and Domingo Escamillas, chair of the Pinag-isang Lakas ng Magbubukid sa Quezon.

Five of those detained were minors who had been released to the custody of the local social welfare and development officer, it was learned.

Former Quezon Board Member Claro Talaga said authorities were to release to his custody the remaining protesters. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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ROUNDUP

Total log ban in Lanao del Norte

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes ordered a total log ban in the province amid reports that illegal loggers had started to target government reforestation projects. Under Administrative Order No. 2006-13, Reyes said the log ban covers natural-grown and replanted trees. Gov. Imelda Dimaporo urged authorities to strictly implement the ban, saying the remaining watershed of the province should be protected at all costs.

Richel V. Umel, Inquirer Mindanao

3 NPA rebels slain in Cagayan

CAMP MELCHOR DELA CRUZ, Isabela—Three suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed while a soldier was wounded in an encounter in Rizal, Cagayan, on Sunday, military reports said. Army Col. Romulo Supapo, 501st Infantry Brigade commander, said Jerry Batta, Rico Palattao and Nestor Romero, alias "Ka Rico," were killed in the clash that lasted 20 minutes in Sitio Ligay, Barangay Masi. Supapo said Batta was a former member of the Army Scout Rangers before he joined the NPA. Military reports said Pvt. Reyne Caymo was wounded.

Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

Cops raid urban poor leaders' homes

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—About 50 policemen raided the houses of six leaders of the urban poor Kadamay in Meycauayan, Bulacan, at 5 a.m. on Thursday but found no firearms, reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed. Bulacan police chief Senior Supt. Michael Fokno said the raid was covered by a search warrant issued by a local court. Joselito Serrano, Kadamay leader and the main subject of the warrant, said in text messages that the policemen forcibly entered his house and those of five other Kadamay leaders, "turned things upside down and locked the doors." According to the warrant, Serrano owned an Armalite rifle, four .45 cal. pistols and a shotgun. Fokno denied that the raid was done in a high-handed manner.

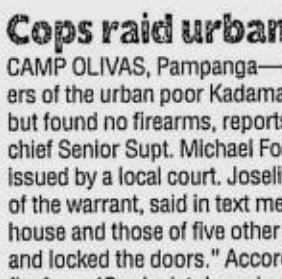
Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Suspected rebel dies in Albay clash

TABACO CITY—A suspected New People's Army rebel was killed in a clash with government troops at Sitio Nopo Barangay Oras, 12 kilometers west of the city poblacion on Wednesday. Army Capt. Edgardo Espallardo, team leader of the 65th Infantry Battalion based in Tula-Tula, Ligao City, said the soldiers chanced upon the band of rebels at around 8 a.m. The ensuing exchange of gunfire lasted for about half an hour. Police buried the unidentified rebel after no one came to claim the body at the police station. The encounter caused the suspension of classes in an elementary school in the village, said village chief Ananias Burce.

Job B. Belen, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Murder suspect yields after hostage drama



GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police patience and maximum tolerance paid off when an 18-hour hostage drama here ended without bloodshed Friday. At around 4 p.m. Thursday, murder suspect Willie Mola, armed with a grenade and a .45 cal. pistol, took five members of his own family as hostages. Mola asked authorities to bring in a member of an international team monitoring the implementation of the ceasefire between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. He then demanded a pumpboat and the presence of a journalist to cover his escape. The hostage-taker claimed he wanted to start a new life but could not understand why the murder case against him was revived although the complainant was already dead. Mola, who escaped from jail in November 2000, later yielded after authorities promised not to harm him.

Aquiles Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao

Cop nabbed in Surigao town

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—A member of the 1406th Police Mobile Group based in Tagbina, Surigao del Sur, was caught stealing cash in a vegetable stall of the San Francisco Public Shopping Mall here Thursday morning. PO1 Lord Anthony Lerin tried to snatch P970 from the vegetable stall of Lorenzo Ceniza but alert stall owners managed to corner him after a brief chase. Determined to escape, Lerin tried to outwit his pursuers but policemen, led by Chief Insp. Floriano Ravelo Jr., local police chief, arrived in time. "What the suspect did really was a big embarrassment to us," Ravelo said. Ravelo said they learned that Lerin was also involved in the snatching of a mobile phone in Agusan del Norte.

Chris V. Panganiban, Inquirer Mindanao

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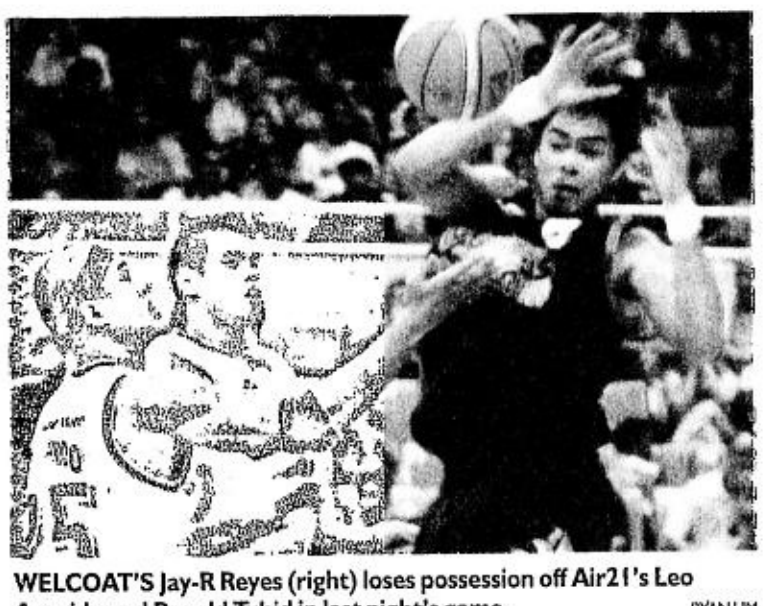


WELCOAT'S Jay-R Reyes (right) loses possession off Air21's Leo Avenido and Ronald Tubid in last night's game. RYAN LIM

Hot Beermen topple Kings; Express score

By Musong R. Castillo

THE GAME WAS DEFINITELY A CLASSIC and yet San Miguel Beer coach Chot Reyes talked so little about it.

Playing before the first true sellout in the PBA Philippine Cup, the Beermen showed their poise late in the game after squandering a 20-point lead to pound out a 101-97 overtime decision of Barangay Ginebra last night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

But rather than bask in the limelight, Reyes took great pains in explaining how "little wins" like last night's can help speed up the process of change in his squad that went from winless to a potential powerhouse almost overnight.

"It will take some time, but you like to have small celebrations like this one," Reyes said. "All change is uncomfortable, and little wins like this one tend to speed up the process of change."

Danny Seigle stepped up for the second straight night, hitting timely baskets and defending tenaciously when SMB's big men went out on fouls to help the Beermen improve to 2-3 overall.

The 6-foot-7 Seigle, who shot 25 points in an 81-71 win over Alaska on Wednesday, made eight of his 28 markers in the extension. He also wound up with a career-high 17 rebounds aside from three blocks as the game's best player.

Meanwhile, two spitfires carried Air21 in separate stages and the Express won for the second straight time with a 110-94 win over newcomer Welcoat.

Gary David hit his first nine shots as the Express established control before Ronald Tubid drilled nine in a string to finish with 15 in the fourth period as the Express won for a 2-3 card.

"As long as we are able to do what we do best, and that is to run, I don't care who we play," Air21 coach Bo Perasol said.

A good segment of the 11,000 fans or so that filled the Astrodome in Pasay headed for the exits when the Beermen took a 14-point lead entering the final 4:34 of regulation play.

But a searing Ginebra charge capped by a long jumper by Mark Macapagal that beat the game clock forged the game's first and only tie at 86.

By then, big Beermen Dorian Peña and Rommel Adducul had already gone out on fouls.

But rather than deteriorate in overtime, the Beermen rose to the challenge as Seigle led the surge that gave San Miguel a 97-91 edge.

Inquirer Sports

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:35 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs. Purefoods Chunkee
7:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs. Red Bull

The scores:

First Game

AIR21 110—David 24, Tubid 21, De Ocampo, R. 17, Santos 13, Dimaunahan 11, Sotto 6, De Ocampo, Y. 6, Telan 5, Arboleda 5, Avenido 2.

WELCOAT 94—Tangkay 15, Wainwright 15, Cabatu 13, Lopez 13, Reyes 11, Sta. Maria 8, Baguion 7, Gelig 6, Ibanez 2, Lao 2, Mente 2, Sagad 0.

Quarters: 28-23, 53-42, 78-70, 110-94

Second Game

SAN MIGUEL 101—Seigle 28, Hontiveros 20, Tenorio 14, Adducul 11, Pena 11, Wilson 7, Racela 6, Calaguio 4, Espinas 0.

GINEBRA 97—Caguioa 20, Menk 17, Macapagal 16, Helterbrand 11, Abarrientos 9, Hatfield 8, Reavis 6, Salvacion 5, Mamaril 3, Seigle 2.

Quarters: 22-14, 47-33, 68-57, 86-all, 101-97

More sports stories on A27-A30

RP golfers falter anew

NEW DELHI—INDIAN VIJAY KUMAR SHOT a six-under-par 66 Sunday to forge a three-way tie for the lead with compatriots Jyoti Randhawa and S.S.P Chowrasia at the end of the $400,000 Hero Honda Indian Open at Delhi Golf Club.

Chowrasia closed with a 69 and Randhawa a 70 to end up with 72-hole totals of 270 like Kumar. Their sudden-death playoff was stopped due to bad light and will be resumed Monday morning.

The four Filipinos who made it to the weekend play again faltered in the final round.

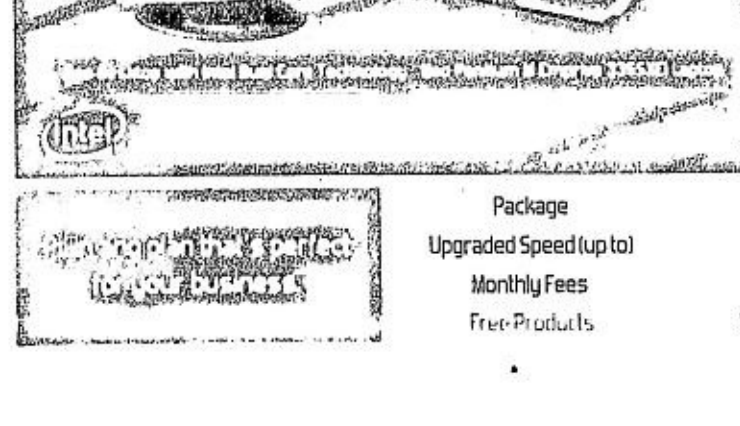
After rounds of 69-71-70, Gerald Rosales closed out with a 76 and finished in a two-way tie for 31st at two-under 286.

Angelo Que, who had a 68 in the third round after scores of 72-71, skied to a 78 and finished at 1-over 289. Artemio Murakami wound up with 3-over 291 after a 72 while Cookie La'O shot a 79 to finish at 295. *AP*

Django gets sick, too

AFTER EFREN "BATA" REYES, IT WAS FRANCISco "Django" Bustamante's turn to get weighed down by health problems. The former World No. 1 suffered from stomach pains and crashed out of the quarterfinals of the Russian International Open in Moscow. Another Filipino entry, Antonio Lining, also failed to advance past the quarterfinals of the tournament ruled by 15-year-old local bet Ruslan Chinakov, who took the top purse $10,000. Reyes, who dominated three tournaments in three different time zones, was hospitalized recently. Bustamante suffered problems the night before his match against Sandor Tot of Hungary and lost, 10-

Marlon Bernardino, contributor



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See Section D pages 4 and 5 for the Habitat for Humanity supplement

NBI sets up payment kiosks

By Margaux C. Ortiz

GETTING A CLEARANCE FROM THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has become a step easier.

The NBI has installed eight "unmanned" payment kiosks at its clearance center in Carriedo Plaza, Sta. Cruz, Manila for the convenience of applicants.

NBI Identification Records Division (IRD) chief Francisco Donozo Jr. encouraged those applying for a clearance to avail of the new machines to avoid the long lines at the regular payment counters.

Like an ATM or vendo machine

"The unmanned payment kiosks are similar in principle to vendo machines and automated teller machines," Donozo said in an interview.

He explained that to be able to use the machines, applicants should have the exact amount of P115 —the application fee—broken down into a P100 bill and three P5 coins.

"After inserting the money into the specialized slots, the applicant should immediately press the specified buttons indicating the purpose for obtaining the clearance: Either for local employment or travel abroad," the NBI official said.

Donozo added that applicants can ask for help from NBI personnel who have been assigned to stand beside the unmanned kiosks.

The kiosks are on the third floor of the Carriedo Plaza, near the designated area for the issuance of application forms.

"We have conducted three dry runs to ensure the smooth implementation of the new payment method starting this month," Donozo said.

QC gov't may do away with amusement tax

By DJ Yap

GOOD NEWS FOR THE MOVIE INDUSTRY: Quezon City is poised to scrap altogether the amusement tax on local films shown in theaters around the city.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. has certified as urgent a proposed ordinance discontinuing the imposition of the 15-percent amusement tax on locally-made movies.

"With this pioneering piece of legislation, it is hoped that similar ordinances supporting and giving incentive to a 'dying' cultural medium will be enacted in other local government units," he said.

Quezon City was the first local government unit to reduce amusement taxes from 30 percent to 15 percent five years ago, by virtue of a city ordinance.

In an earlier meeting, the Film Academy of the Philippines, led by its chair Espiridion Laxa and director general Leo Martinez, urged Belmonte and other city officials to further lower the amusement tax on local films.

At present, the city imposes a 15-percent tax on local films and a 30-percent tax on foreign movies, as provided under Section 39 of the Quezon City Revenue Code.

No knives, liquor in cemeteries

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE CHIEF OF THE MANILA POLICE DISTRICT (MPD) yesterday reminded the public not to bring prohibited items to the cemeteries on All Saints' Day next week.

MPD acting director Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa said all kinds of bladed weapons like knives, shears and scissors would immediately be confiscated at the entrance.

Liquor and gambling items such as playing cards would also be seized.

"Refraining from bringing such items to the cemeteries would ensure the solemnity of the occasion," the MPD chief said.

He added that MPD operatives would be deployed to maintain order at the city's four cemeteries: Manila North Cemetery, Manila South Cemetery, Chinese Cemetery and La Loma Cemetery.

The MPD chief had earlier ordered anti-criminality operations to be conducted in the four cemeteries to clear the areas of robbers and drug dealers.

Abarzosa explained that some members of criminal groups sometimes hide in the cemetery after committing illegal activities.

METRO Citizen's call
0918-8985566

INFORM ko lang po kayo na dito sa Block 3, C.P. Garcia St., Tondo, Manila ay may nagaganap na tupada, sabong, araw-araw pagsapit ng 9 a.m. na pinamumunuan po ng nagngangalang Koyang. Ang masama pa, pati barangay tanod kasama. Hindi naman pinapansin ng chairman. Pakisugpo na lang po dahil pati po menor de edad na kabataan ay naiimpluwensiyahan. Nakakaistorbo pa dahil napakaingay pa po nila. Inaasahan po namin ang inyong dagliang aksyon.
Jun S. B., Tondo, Manila

Pornographic paintings on jeepneys plying Cogeo-Cubao. Find it too suggestive.
Jasmin Castro, Marcos Hi-way

Carinderias on Hermosa St., Tondo placed dining tables and chairs, blocking sidewalk and road.
Nes Pena, Quezon City

Mayaman St. at the back of the National Housing Authority and Kalayaan Avenue is being used as parking area and terminal of private and public utility vehicles, obstructing the flow of traffic and blocking driveways. Department of Public Order and Safety is not doing anything about this although it is only a stone's throw away from their office.
Marino Torres, Diliman, Quezon City

I ply Edsa every day on my way to work in Ortigas and it is dismaying to see the numerous smoke-belching vehicles on the road. How I wish that the old law we had would be revived and now strictly applied.
Annie Nisce, Quezon City

Construction work in Araneta Center across SM Cubao beside Fiesta Carnival causing traffic jam and making road muddy for pedestrians rushing to work in the morning.
Geraldine Medina, Quezon City

Please call the attention of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to a hole and hump on the inner lane of Edsa, near Estrella right before MMDA headquarters going to Cubao.
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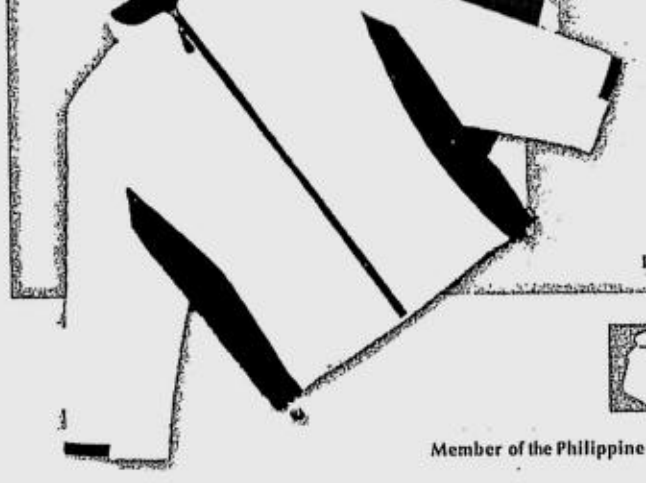
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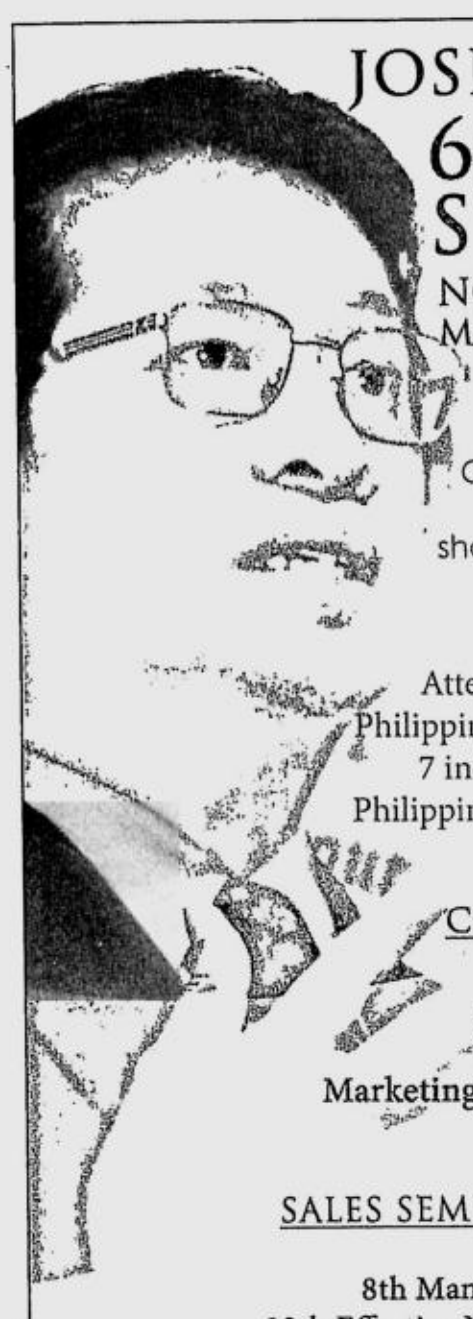
A cancer victim beats the odds twice



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MICHAEL G. MALAGHAN
A legend in the field of sales
Author of "Making Millions in Direct Sales"

TIPPING POINTS FOR CAREER SUCCESS
Session 1: Nov. 15, 2006
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Mike Malaghan managed his first team of sales reps as a student field manager at age 20. He retired as president of 2,000 fulltime sales representatives spread over five sales groups in three countries as well as being in charge of product development and after-sales service programs.

Mike will review a minimum of 10 tipping points in his personal march to success. Not every inflection point was a success. Sometimes, failure taught painful lessons. Some of the highlights include: • How he transitioned from personal selling to management at age 20 • How he established credibility as a manager of a new sales group • How he impressed senior management • How he made two huge mistakes that held his career back • How he made a decision to quit at a wrong time.

Mike will also review career tipping points of successful and unsuccessful managers reporting to him. This includes: • What he looked for when promoting managers to the next level • How to pass the "unfair test" - situations managers faced that were not their fault, but had to be dealt with.

This interactive session will ask members of the audience to share their personal career tipping point experiences. Be prepared to give one story in case you "win" the lottery and are called!

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Session 2: Nov. 16, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
10 Ways to Enhance Organizational Competitiveness
Session 3: Nov. 17, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
20 Strategies for Effective Leadership

VENUE: Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, H. V. de la Costa St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

By Estrelita C. Valderama
Contributor

TWO BOUTS WITH THE BIG C IN THREE years has made the life of Suzette Romero-Andrews more meaningful, productive and fulfilling. She may have lost a breast to cancer, but she has gained lots of friends.

"There is life after cancer. It is not a death sentence as others would take it," said Suzette who is in her late 40s. "After I got over my personal battle, the battle is now for others, for survivors to ease their sufferings on one side and to advocate for prevention and early detection on the other side," she added.

The soft-spoken mother of three said her battle with the life-threatening disease has enriched her life in many ways. "I ventured into things I never even thought I could do. My life is more fruitful. Now I am empowered, enriched by experience," said Suzette who lived an uncomplicated life as a homemaker before she was first diagnosed with Stage 2-A breast cancer in January 2003.

Her bout with the disease began during a post-Christmas underwear sale in a mall in Jan. 2003. She was trying on a bra when she felt a lump as hard as a marble on her left breast. "I felt like I was electrocuted. I removed my hand right away. I didn't want to touch it anymore."

Suzette said she immediately paid for the bra and went home. "I was scared. I never did self-breast exams. At that age (mid-40s), I should already be undergoing an annual mammogram. But the year before that, I went to my OB (obstetrician-gynecologist) and she did a breast exam. She didn't feel anything," she recalled.

Putting it off

When she got home, she asked Paul, her husband, to feel the lump. "It's hard, you better go to the doctor right away, he told me. But I said I have a full schedule for the week, so I would probably go at the end of the month," Suzette said.

But Paul was adamant and insisted that they see Dr. Diana Cua, a noted breast cancer surgeon at the Makati Medical Center, the next day. When they got to the hospital, Dr. Cua examined Suzette. "She did an ultrasound and she confirmed that it was malignant. Offhand, she measured (the lump) on the screen at about 2.5 centimeters, and for that size, it's Stage 2A, meaning no lump in the armpit. She did a needle biopsy and told us she would call the next day for the result."

The couple was still in a state of shock when they left the hospital. Neither of them talked in the car on their way home. Paul then called their two older children: Michelle who was 17 at that time, and Michael, 15, and told them the news. Both were also stunned.

The next day, Suzette said she tried to keep herself busy while waiting for the important phone call. "We prayed to the Blessed Sacrament. We just kept hoping for the best; hoping (the test results were) negative."

The call finally came after lunch with the doctor asking her to return to the hospital. When she did, she was told that the biopsy result confirmed Dr. Cua's suspicion.

Two options

Since the cancer was still in its early stage, Dr. Cua told Suzette that she could either go for lumpectomy—known as a breast conserving therapy that entails removing only what is necessary—or a mastectomy, which means removing all the breast tissues. She was given three weeks to decide.

Suzette said, "Of course you think about death. I asked Dr. Cua if I would survive this. And she said, yes you will. That lifted my spirits and then she set the tone for treatment. That time, I was even afraid to use the word 'death.' I was scared to say that word so I asked if I would survive."

From that day on, visits to the hospital became an almost daily routine for a series of tests like electrocardiogram, 2-D echo, blood tests and cancer profile, among others.

On the third day, her 9-year-old daughter Marga became curious. "You're going to the hospital again? Why are you always going to the hospital?" she asked her mother.

"So I told her, the doctor found a lump in mommy's breast. She said, 'You mean you have cancer? Are you going to die?' It was like, wow, this is something new." Marga's reaction was something Suzette never expected or imagined. "I just told her, 'No, I'm not going to die, and this is a cancer that will go away'."

During the agonizing three-week window period between diagnosis and surgery, the Andrews couple went to another oncologist for a second opinion. The results were the same. She then asked other doctors on what surgical procedure would be more preferable. The older ones were for mastectomy while younger doctors recommended lumpectomy.

Stronger faith

Suzette said she decided to go for the latter. After surgery, she started undergoing chemotherapy. Although each session terrified her, she said it was during this time that her faith in the Lord grew. "My faith was already strong but it became stronger because I had to cling to something."

But the phase when she started losing her hair and experiencing other side effects scared her the most. Suzette said she lost 10 pounds after the first chemo cycle, and threw up a lot for three days after each session. But after the third, she regained her appetite, making her think that the body has a mechanism to repair itself.

When her hair started falling, Suzette said she had to buy a wig because her son didn't want to see her hair thinning. "This is one poignant moment. The first time I had to wear my wig because I was going somewhere, only my son was at home. I asked him to help me put it on. As he was helping me, he kept asking me, 'Mom, are you all right?' then his face started to turn red, and he kept repeating, 'You'll get well, you'll get well.' He was getting emotional. He wanted to cry but he was trying not to. Then he left the room."

"My son is very quiet. He does not show his emotions so that really meant a lot to me. That touched me so much," she said.

Three weeks after the last of six cycles of chemotherapy, Suzette underwent radiation treatment from Monday to Friday for 33 days. Afterward, she found herself with nothing to do. "I was praying and praying. I wanted to do something. After having gone through all of that cancer experience, I didn't want to go back to the normal way of life. I wanted that experience to have a meaning. I didn't want it to go to waste."

What to do

So many ideas came up: Putting up a foundation, forming a support group in her area and finally, the concept of publishing a magazine devoted to cancer.

After months of working it out, "The Big C (Conquering Cancer)" magazine was born in November 2004. It was intended to be a cancer victim's first line of information to spare them from confusion due to information overload.

The quarterly magazine, according to Suzette, features experiences of cancer patients, stories of survivors, doctors' opinions and findings and other information to enable a patient to make informed, intelligent decisions.

The second issue was in the works when the doctor found a new lump in her armpit. Tests showed that it was also malignant.

This was more devastating than the first time, Suzette said. She had to undergo more extensive tests to make sure the cancer cell had not spread to other organs. This time, the couple decided to remove the whole breast. After mastectomy, Suzette had to go through the same terrifying process of chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

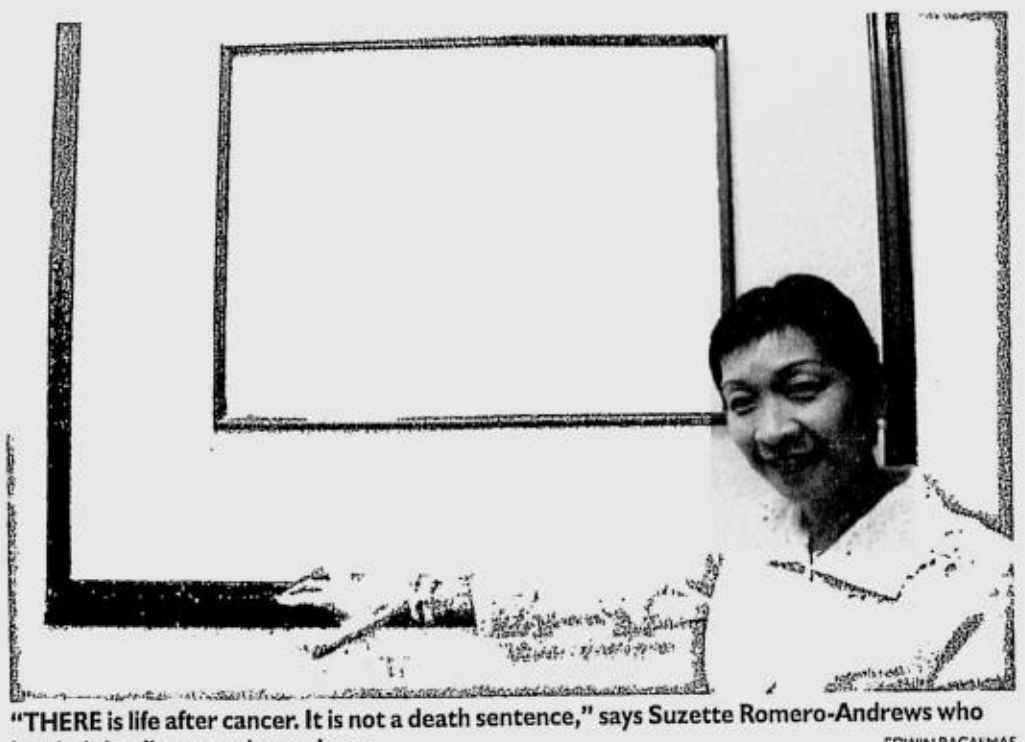
Gradual process

After hurdling that difficult phase in her life, Suzette said she feels so blessed. "During treatment, fear is all over you. But once you complete the treatment and you hurdle cancer, your body will repair itself and your spirit will start to heal. It's not instant. It's a process. Healing is gradual," she said.

A year after surviving cancer the second time, Suzette looks as normal as other healthy women. She has been busy with the magazine and with her volunteer work for the Philippine Foundation for Breast Care Inc.

She is also a volunteer psycho-spiritual counselor for the Breast Care Center based at East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City. Suzette gives inspiration to patients, mostly coming from indigent families.

By the way, she still uses the bra she bought in 2003 when she discovered the lump in her breast. It now has pockets for filling.



"THERE is life after cancer. It is not a death sentence," says Suzette Romero-Andrews who battled the disease twice and won. EDWIN BACASMAS

Text messaging still king in mobile data communication

SINGAPORE—TEXT MESSAGING remains the most dominant mode of mobile data communication, as high costs and cumbersome procedures keep customers from fully embracing fancier applications, industry players say.

As revenue from voice service narrows, mobile operators are hard pressed to find a key new application that will continue generating cash like the simple yet still popular short messaging system (SMS), also known as text messaging.

One solution is to enrich the content of text messages by adding voice greetings or templates on birthdays, wedding anniversaries and other special occasions, industry experts say.

For example, a boss sends a text message commending an employee for a job well done and informing him of a pay raise. The congratulatory text could be enriched by including the sound of applause and colorful dollar signs.

The ultimate aim is to allow mobile users to do with great ease on their handsets what they normally do on personal computers: chatting online via instant message and sending e-mails, analysts and industry executives say.

"The challenge is that voice revenues are declining," said Joe Woods, an executive vice president at fastmobile, a firm that has simplified sending text messages, instant messages and e-mails from a mobile phone with just one log-in and across multiple portals like Yahoo and MSN.

"The take-up of data services has been slow. It's been faster in Asian markets but around the world it's not been as fast as people would like, given the huge investments required. The big success story is SMS," he told AFP in an interview on the sidelines of the 3GSM World Congress Asia telecommunications conference in Singapore last week.

Teyew Sin Siew, head of telecom research at consultancy Frost and Sullivan, said that in 13 Asia-Pacific markets including China and India, mobile data contributed about 20 percent of annual mobile revenue. Of the 20 percent, up to 90 percent was revenue generated from text messaging.

"Voice and SMS are contributing more than 90 percent of the mobile revenue, so a lot of vendors or suppliers are trying to work around these two to create value-added services in the voice and SMS areas," Teyew told AFP.

"When you can combine these two and make it simple, you have a value proposition to the end-user. Voice revenues are declining and everybody is looking at data services in terms of new value-added services." Industry executives say applications like multi-media services (MMS), which allow the mobile user to send photos and short video clips, have not taken off because few can afford the price of the service and the handset.

Woods says the market for enhanced text messaging is enormous, given the volume of instant messages and e-mails sent daily via computer.

Two billion text messages were sent daily across the globe in 2005—a fraction of the 130 billion e-mails and seven billion instant messages people send each day on their computers, he said. *AFP*

Reports say N. Korea ready for compromise

SEOUL—FRESH REPORTS EMERGED SUNDAY that nuclear-armed North Korea may be ready for compromise as the top US diplomat headed home from Moscow after a mission to increase pressure on the reclusive communist state.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said the North's leader Kim Jong-Il has promised not to stage a second nuclear test unless it is "harassed" by the United States.

The report quoted diplomatic sources in Seoul as saying Kim gave the assurance during a meeting in Pyongyang last week with a high-level Chinese delegation led by State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan.

"Kim said during a meeting with Tang that North Korea would not conduct an additional nuclear test unless the US harasses the North," Yonhap quoted one source as saying.

"Kim also promised North Korea would return to the six-way (disarmament) talks in the near future as long as the US promises to lift financial sanctions after the talks reopen." South Korean officials said they had no information on the report. Yonhap Friday quoted a diplomatic source in Beijing as saying Kim had told his Chinese visitors there would be no additional test.

Tang was the first foreign official to meet Kim since North Korea sparked world outrage and UN sanctions with its first atomic test on Oct. 9.

After his return to Beijing Friday, Tang said his trip had not been a waste of time but gave no details.

"Fortunately my visit this time has not been in vain," he told visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

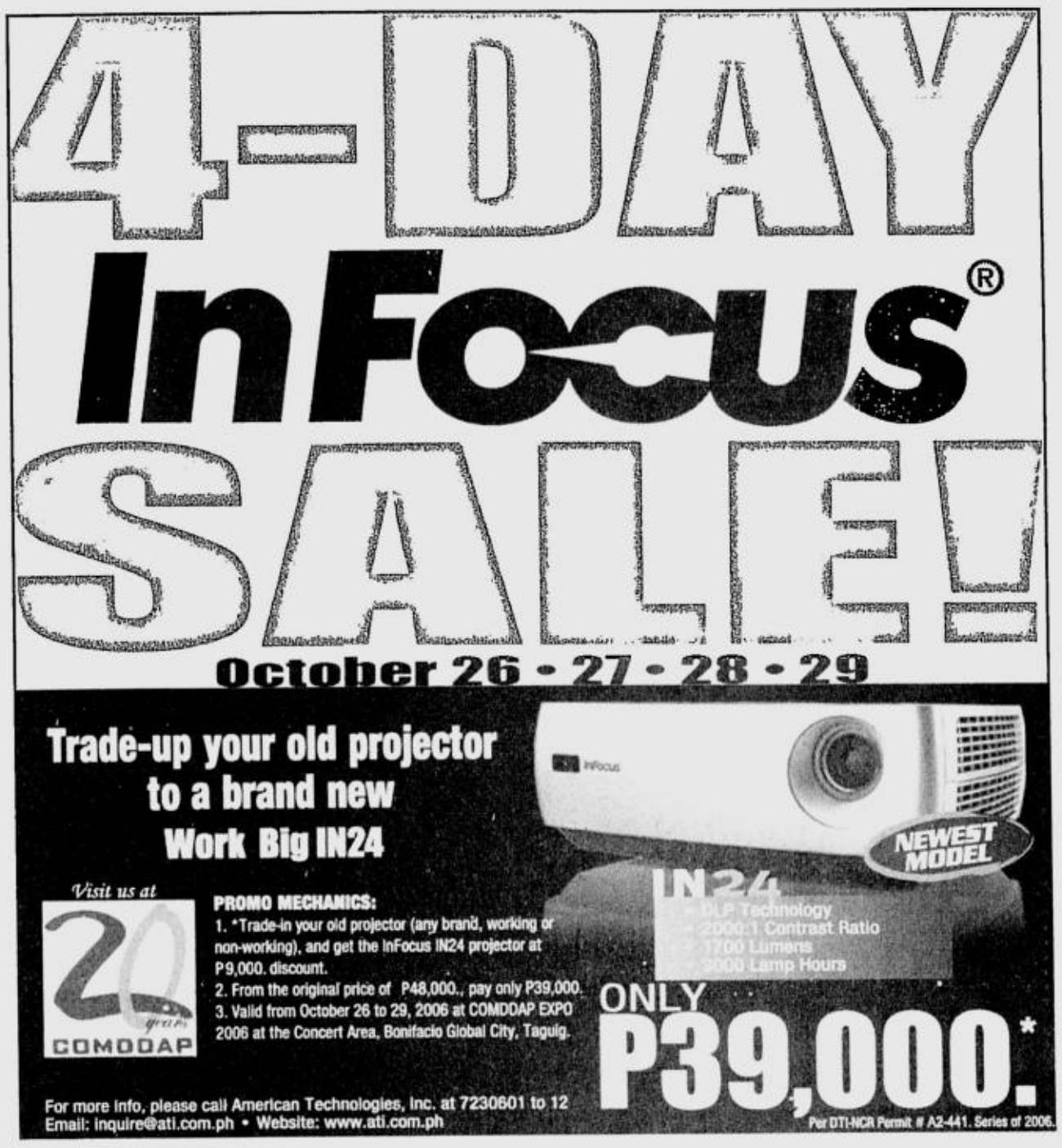
Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing also reported some positive elements from the meeting, saying the prospect of quickly resuming stalled six-party talks on the North's nuclear program had been discussed.

North Korea agreed at the talks in September 2005 to scrap its nuclear programs in exchange for energy aid, other economic inducements and security guarantees.

But it boycotted the forum two months later in protest at US attempts to cut its access to overseas banks.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso was also quoted as saying Friday his country has information that Kim promised Tang there would not be another test. And a South Korean newspaper said Kim had expressed regret to the envoy from China, the North's most crucial source of aid and trade.

In Moscow, Rice cast doubt Saturday on the reported apology and said the North wants an "escalation of tensions." "I don't know whether or not Kim Jong-Il said any such thing," Rice said. *AFP*



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2006

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US official admits 'arrogance' in Iraq

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—A SENIOR US DIPLOMAT SAID the United States had shown "arrogance" and "stupidity" in Iraq but was now ready to talk with any group except al-Qaida in Iraq to facilitate national reconciliation.

In an interview with Al-Jazeera television aired late Saturday, Alberto Fernandez, director of public diplomacy in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the State Department offered an unusually candid assessment of America's war in Iraq.

"We tried to do our best but I think there is much room for criticism because, undoubtedly, there was arrogance and there was stupidity from the United States in Iraq," he said.

"We are open to dialogue because we all know that, at the end of the day, the solution to the hell and the killings in Iraq is linked to an effective Iraqi national reconciliation," he said, speaking in Arabic from Washington. "The Iraqi government is convinced of this."

State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack, in Moscow with Rice, said that Fernandez disputes the description of his comments, which were in Arabic.

"What he says is, that is not an accurate reflection of what he said," McCormack said. Asked whether the Bush administration believes that history will show a record of arrogance or stupidity in Iraq, McCormack replied "No."

The question of negotiations between the United States and insurgency factions has repeatedly surfaced over the past two years, but details have been sketchy. One issue that was often raised in connection with such negotiations was the extent of amnesty the United States and its Iraqi allies were willing to offer to the insurgents if they disarmed and joined the political process.

Fernandez spoke to the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera after a man claiming to speak for Saddam Hussein's outlawed Baath Party told the network the United States was seeking a face-saving exodus from Iraq and that insurgents were ready to negotiate but won't lay down arms.

"Abu Mohammed," a pseudonym for the man, appeared to set near impossible conditions for the start of any talks with the Americans, including the return to service of Saddam's armed forces, the annulment of every law adopted since Saddam's ouster, the recognition of insurgent groups as the sole representatives of the Iraqi people and a timetable for a gradual, unconditional withdrawal of US and other foreign troops in Iraq.

"The occupier has started to search for a face-saving way out. The resistance, with all its factions, is determined to continue fighting until the enemy is brought down to his knees and sits on the negotiating table or is dealt, with God's help, a humiliating defeat," he said. *AP*

Iraq deaths estimate accurate, say researchers

LOS ANGELES—A CONTROVERsial estimate by public health experts that hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have died because of the March 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq is likely an accurate assessment, researchers said on Saturday.

"Over the last 25 years, this sort of methodology has been used more and more often, especially by relief agencies in times of emergency," said Dr. David Rush, a professor and epidemiologist at Tufts University in Boston.

The study, published earlier this month by the Lancet medical journal, employed a method known as "cluster sampling" in which data are collected through interviews with randomly selected households.

Critics, including President George W. Bush, have said the results are not credible, but Rush said traditional methods for determining death rates, such as counting bodies, are highly inaccurate for civilian populations in times of war.

Researchers from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and Al Mustansiriya University in Baghdad estimated with 95 percent certainty that the war and its aftermath have resulted in the deaths of between 426,000 and 794,000 Iraqis.

Other estimates have calculated the number of extra Iraqi deaths to be much lower. The Iraq Body Count Database calculates that between 43,850 and 48,693 extra civilians have died since the invasion.

Rush, speaking at a meeting in Los Angeles on the medical consequences of the Iraq war, said that the relatively small size of the sample—1,849 households—doesn't change the findings, although it does widen the "confidence limits," hence the large range of the estimated additional deaths.

In addition, the biases inherent in cluster sampling, such as wording of questionnaires, would tend to undercount, rather than inflate, the number of deaths, Rush said.

"I think this is an extremely credible study," said Michael Intriligator, professor of economics at the University of California at Los Angeles. *Reuters*

Foley trained his sights on 'hot' boys, says report

WASHINGTON—FLORIDA REpublican Rep. Mark Foley made friends with a wide circle of teenaged House of Representatives pages, then singled out "hot" boys to write to, the Washington Post reported on Sunday.

The newspaper said it had identified four more former pages who said they were sexually solicited by Foley, who has resigned since the scandal broke last month.

One former page, who was not identified, said Foley sent him e-mails when he was 16 asking about "my roommates, if I ever saw them naked." Later, the former page said Foley hinted about a job opportunity "because I was a hot boy," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Two years later, the page, now 22, said, he wrote Foley to ask about hotels in Washington. "You could always stay at my place. I'm always here, I'm always lonely, and I'm always up for oral sex," he quoted the disgraced former member of Congress as saying.

Another former page said he felt he had to flirt with Foley, who has said he is homosexual and an alcoholic and that he was abused by a priest as a child.

FOLEY

"I didn't want to piss off a member of an institution that I really revered," the former Republican page said.

"I figured maybe someday I will want to be involved in Congress," the newspaper quoted him as saying. "I didn't want to make an enemy." Republican leaders have said they did not know about the explicit e-mails sent by Foley before media reports, but a former top aide to Foley has said he told senior aides to majority leader Dennis Hastert about Foley's behavior three years ago. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

India backpedals on Pakistan bomb role

NEW DELHI—India has good but not clinching evidence against Pakistan's spy agency for its role in the July serial bombings in Bombay (Mumbai) which killed 186 people, a top security official said on Sunday. Indian police last month blamed Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is fighting Indian rule in Kashmir, for the seven bombs which ripped through commuter trains and platforms in the western commercial hub. Both Pakistan and Lashkar have denied any involvement. India's National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan said while the evidence was as good "as we can possibly get in terrorist cases," it could not be called clinching. *Reuters*

Mladic in Belgrade, says prosecutor

PARIS—The former Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic, on the run from a UN war crimes court since 1995, "is in Serbia, in and around Belgrade," prosecutor Carla del Ponte charged in an interview published by the French daily Liberation on Saturday. Del Ponte, the top magistrate at the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) sharply criticized the "real lack of political will" in Serbia in catching Mladic, who is notably wanted for his role in the 1995 massacre of Muslims at Srebrenica. Serbian leaders, who are under pressure to produce Mladic in order to advance talks on their country joining the European Union, claim however that they do not know where he is. *AFP*

MLADIC

Rare car collection brings in record $36M

OXNARD, CALIFORNIA—An auction of 90 rare cars and motorcycles owned by late Los Angeles Times publisher Otis Chandler brought in over $36 million. Two classic cars sold for more than $2 million each. A 1931 Duesenberg J Special Phaeton fetched $2.64 million and a 1904 Mercedes 40/45 HP Sports Touring went for $2.25 million, auction officials said Saturday. Company founder David Gooding believes the auction broke the previous single day auto auction record of $21 million with 33 cars and motorcycles still to be sold. The highest-selling motorcycle, a 1907 Harley-Davidson 440CC Strap-Tank Single, brought in $352,000. *AP*

Bomber kills 24 Iraqi shoppers

BAGHDAD—Bombers killed at least 24 people in two attacks on Iraqi families shopping Saturday for the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, in a deadly response to an appeal for peace from religious leaders. As night fell, five bicycle bombs exploded in a crowded market just as families shopped for food for the traditional evening meal held during the dawn-to-dusk fasting month of Ramadan, a defense ministry spokesperson said. At least 20 people were killed and 30 more wounded in the attack in Mahmudiyah, 30 km southwest of the capital, in one of the bloodiest attacks of its type in recent weeks. In an earlier blast, a suicide attacker detonated a bomb on board a bus returning from one of Baghdad's largest markets, killing four people and wounding 15, mainly women and children headed home from shopping. The deadly attacks came as US military casualties continued to mount—three more Marines were reported dead—as Shiite militias skirmished with Iraqi police in at least two southern cities. *AFP*

7 foreign oil workers freed in Nigeria

LAGOS—Seven expatriate oil workers abducted on Oct. 3 in the restive Niger Delta region of Nigeria were freed Saturday in the district capital Port Harcourt, police and oil company sources said. Police spokesperson Hza Iwendi gave no details of their release but said the four Britons, a Romanian, a Malaysian and an Indonesian, would be transferred to the care of their employers—subcontractors for US oil giant Exxon Mobil. The kidnappings were the latest in a series of incidents in recent months that have slashed oil output of 2.6 million barrels per day in Nigeria—the world's sixth largest producer—by a quarter. Around 10 days ago, about 60 Nigerian employees from Anglo-Dutch oil group Shell and subcontractor firms were captured in the southern state of Bayelsa before being freed two days later. Local groups carrying out the kidnappings, such as the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, are angry at the environmental degradation caused by the oil wells and that the proceeds have not filtered down to the local population, who live in dire poverty. *AFP*

Poll puts Democrats far ahead in Congress

WASHINGTON—More than half of Americans, 55 percent, would like to see Democrats take control of Congress, according to a poll by Newsweek magazine released on Saturday. The poll of 1,000 likely voters found that 55 percent would choose a Democrat to represent their district if the vote were held now, and 37 percent said they would vote Republican. This includes 31 percent of white evangelical Christians, an increase of six points among that strongly Republican group over the 2004 elections. *Reuters*

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Cardinals** take Game One/A30

SPORTS

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Warriors ambush Red Lions

PBA in Late Sports, A22

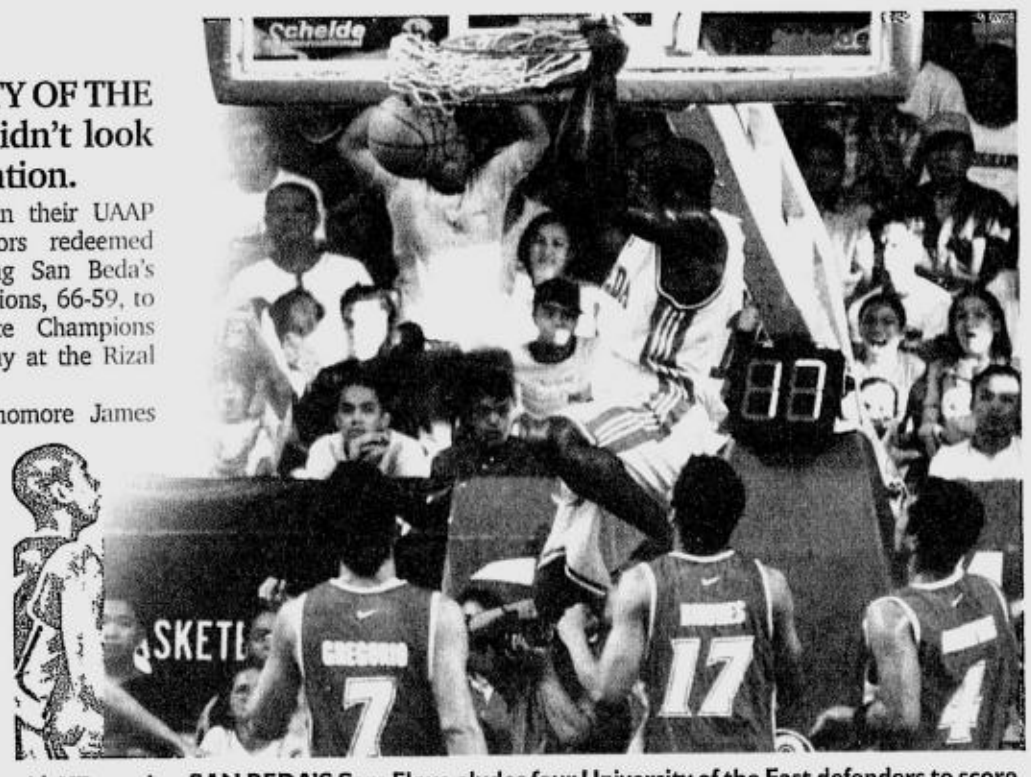
UE rules Champs League, upholds UAAP status as top school league

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE East Warriors didn't look at it as a consolation.

After falling short in their UAAP campaign, the Warriors redeemed themselves by crushing San Beda's NCAA champion Red Lions, 66-59, to capture the Collegiate Champions League crown yesterday at the Rizal Coliseum.

Sweet-shooting sophomore James Martinez, named Finals Most Valuable Player, shot key triples in the final period to bail out the Warriors as Nigerian Sam Ekwe joined the Lions' offensive fray.



SAN BEDA'S Sam Ekwe eludes four University of the East defenders to score on a slam in the first quarter of their game at the Rizal Coliseum. The Warriors showed better poise in humbling the Red Lions. EDWIN BACASMAS

Fighting for UAAP

"We make it a point that we give it our best in every tournament," said UE coach Dindo Pumaren, a former member of San Beda's multi-titled Red Cubs. "It's a redemption in a way because we fought for the UAAP and it's on a bigger stage."

Martinez, also a product of San Beda's formidable high school basketball program, drilled in 12 of his 16 points in crucial stretches in the second half for the Warriors, who finished third in the UAAP won by the University of Santo Tomas Growling Tigers.

UE also drew strong performances from big men Mark Borboran, Kelvin Gregorio and Elmer Espiritu.

"We were very lucky because Ekwe was intimidating," said Pumaren of the NCAA's Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year. "When he made the dunk, that's when San Beda made their run."

The 6-foot-8 Ekwe, playing with a bandaged right leg, delivered 11 points on top of 23 rebounds and three blocks.

Bombers over Cardinals

Earlier, the Jose Rizal Bombers survived the Mapua Cardinals' fourth-quarter rally to post a 76-72 victory and claim the third spot.

John Wilson topscored for the Bombers, the wildcard entry who stunned the Growling Tigers in the first round.

The Lions couldn't get a shot to fall in the final three minutes after Ekwe sparked a run that sliced the deficit to four points, 63-59.

Fifth-year point guard Robert Labagala, playing in his final collegiate tournament, kept the Warriors steady in the closing minutes.

The Warriors pulled ahead at 44-34 after trailing, 29-32, in the third period.

Yousif Aljamal led the Lions with 14 markers and six boards.

The Warriors, ranked fifth in the tournament that gathered the top 16 varsity teams in the country, received P500,000 worth of scholarship and other prizes.

The scores:

First Game

JRU 76—Wilson 15, Nocom 12, Cagoco 11, Pradas 11, Dedicatoria 10, Hayes 9, Sena 6, Se 2, Caspe 0, Fenequito 0,.

MAPUA 72—Tiongco 18, Gonzales 15, N. Pascual 12, Mazo 7, Del Rosario 6, Guillermo 6, Co 3, Sumalinog 3, Migraso 2, Acosta 0, J. Pascual 0.

Quarters: 29-10, 47-30, 66-47, 76-72

Second Game

UE 66—Martinez 16, Borboran 13, Gregorio 12, Espiritu 10, Labagala 5, Arellano 3, Bandaying 3, Thiele 2, Canizares 2, Lingganay 0, Briones 0.

SAN BEDA 59—Aljamal 14, Ekwe 11, Menor 7, Escobal 7, Maggay 6, Tecson 6, Angeles 4, Gamalinda 2, Taganas 2, Evangelista 0.

Quarters: 14-6, 27-25, 50-45, 66-59

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LA SALLE team captain Freddie Mendoza (holding the trophy, eighth from left, standing) with his victorious Green Archers who beat their Ateneo counterparts by one in their celebrated match play at the Sherwood Hills Golf and Country club in Trece Martirez City.

Greens-sharp Archers rally past Blue Eagles

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—THE GREEN Archers played better in the last six flights of their hotly contested duel with the Blue Eagles and retained the Fil-Estate Land Inc. La Salle-Ateneo Match Play golf championship by the slimmest of margins at Sherwood Hills on Sunday.

Trailing by one point at the start of the day, La Salle won nine of 18 singles matches and forced a tie in two other pairings to win the annual Ryder Cup-style event, 21.5-20.5.

It was the most tightly fought match in the three-year history of the event.

Ateneo routed La Salle, 24-18, in the inaugurals two years ago, also at Sherwood Hills, but the Archers responded in kind, 23-19, at Camp John Hay Golf Club in Baguio.

"The boys fought hard to the end," said La Salle captain Freddie Mendoza. "Ateneo was getting the better of us in the first few holes in the back nine, but we turned things around."

La Salle caught up with Ateneo after the first 10 singles matches.

Raymund Sangil opened the Archers' account with a 2-and-1 victory over Louie Dacudao.

After Ateneo's Junjun Plana and La Salle's Miko Alejandro squared their match, Marty Ilagan gave Ateneo its first point following a 3-and-1 triumph over Brixton Aw.

Veteran Tommy Manotoc, bad back and all, crushed Venjo Reyes, 7 and 5, to hand La Salle the lead anew.

The Eagles won the next three matches comfortably, including a huge upset pulled off by 13-year-old Marcel Puyat.

Puyat, an imposing figure at 5-11, toppled the experienced Francis Gaston, 3 and 2.

"This kid will go places," said Gaston who won the 1978 Philippine Amateur championship. "Give him three more years and he will be a force to reckon with. He hits the ball long and putts well."

Anthony Fernando whipped Marco Olives, 6 and 5, and Eric Gozo humbled King Stehmeier, 7 and 6, for Ateneo's other points.

The Archers returned the favor by taking the next three matches, including two featured women pairings.

National player Anya Tanpinco stamped her class over Katrina Gonzalez, 6 and 5, while Kim Hong stunned Lovelyn Guioguio, 3 and 1.

Charles Hong, the second of three siblings fielded by La Salle, defeated Bobby Ysip, 4 and 2, to keep the Eagles at bay.

Ateneo went two-up by taking the next two matches via 2-and-1 scores courtesy of Jovi Neri, who beat Oliver Gan, and Benjie Sarmiento, who

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SA nips Sweden; RP ties for 30th

STELENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA—South Africa withstood a final-round surge by Sweden then nipped the defending champion in the tiebreak Saturday to become the first host country since 1980 to win the Espirito Santo Trophy of the World Amateur Golf Team Championships.

The Swedes rallied from four strokes down to tie the Africans after 72 holes at 566, but lost in a tiebreaker as South Africa's Ashleigh Simon had a 73 to the 77 of Sweden's Sofie Andersson.

The Philippines, with national champion Debbie de Villa finally counting behind world junior titlist Dottie Ardina, finished 44 strokes behind with a four-day total of 610 after a closing 155.

The young RP squad wound up in a tie with Venezuela for 30th place, way off the joint 18th effort by the 2004 squad of Jayvie Agojo, Anya Tanpinco and Lora Roberto in Puerto Rico.

De Villa finally came up with her strongest round of 78.

The 12-year-old Ardina shot a 77 and wound up with a 301 for joint 55th in individual play.

Cyna Rodriguez, 14, skied to an 81 and finished with a 312, while the 16-year-old De Villa had a 334 and wound up in joint 108th in a field of 124.

Colombia (567) placed third, followed by France (568) and Germany (569).

MILO MARATHON ELIMS

Champs repeat in Tacloban

TACLOBAN CITY—DIONESIO BELmonte and Camila Luterte retained their crowns yesterday in the 21K qualifying run of the 30th National Milo Marathon at the Leyte Provincial Capitol here.

Belmonte was hounded by Allan Latoja before he pulled away for good with a do-or-die charge with one kilometer left to finish with a time of 1 hour 9 minutes and 17 seconds.

The 21-year-old Belmonte, who graduated last March at Sto. Nino College of Ormoc, said he will use his P10,000 winner's purse for his criminology board exam in Cebu on Oct. 24-26.

Latoja came home 34 seconds behind Belmonte with Gilbert Luterte finishing third in 1:11:26 to uphold a family winning tradition after his mother topped the women's 21K race.

The 43-year-old Camila, a veteran runner from Baybay, Leyte, finished unchallenged again in capturing her fourth straight Tacloban City leg crown.

WINNERS Camila Luterte and Dionesio Belmonte with Rep. Remedios Petilla.

Luterte, who started seriously competing in marathons four years ago, hit the finish line in 1:35:51.

A pair of 19-year-olds from Ormoc City followed her home with Irish Barquera clinching second (1:54:16) and Angelo Catimpohan landing third (1:55:43).

The top three finishers in the men's and women's 21K races of this annual foot race will advance to the 42K national finals on Dec. 10 in Metro Manila.

The 5K fun run was ruled by Renato Paculdo (17:22), Benedict Dino (17:38) and Cary Icay (18:20) in the men's division and Elyssa Estacion (23:02), Jesserell Babida (23:58) and Erika Estacion (24:00) in the distaff side.

The Kiddies 3K winners were Jan Kenneth Estacion and Jennylyn Quilat in the 6-9 age class and Gerald Gundro and Ma. Christina Babon in the 10-12 group.

Rep. Remedios Petilla and provincial agriculturist Loreto Yu fired the starting guns that flagged off the runners.

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Valencia, Tribu Sugbu down rivals

VALENCIA CITY—VALENCIA GOLDEN HARvest struck hard in the payoff period to squeak past Bacchus/Harbour Centre-San Juan, 92-87, Saturday night in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament here.

Nat Cruz shone with a career-high 29 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to help Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia cagers tie the Bacchus/Harbour five of businessman Mikee Romero and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito in fourth place at 2-2.

In the other game, Tribu Sugbu crushed Cellular Pawnshop, 89-76, to improve to 2-3.

The Artho/Skygo-backed Tribesmen of businessmen Jonathan Guardo and Lito Gillamac Jr. leaned on Mark Ababon, JR Quiñahan and Doroteo Almacin in dealing Paulo Ybanez's Cellulars their fourth straight defeat.

The Tribesmen face a big test at 7 tonight when they go up against league debutant Osmeña-Cebu squad of former senator John Osmena at the Cebu Coliseum.

The scores:

VALENCIA 92—Cruz 27, Concha 22, Berami 15, Braga 10, Cummings 7, Clavel 6, Celiz 2, Dragon 2, Navales 1, Adams 0.

BACCHUS/HARBOUR 87—Buenafe 21, Pribhdas 15, Aquino 12, Aliminario 12, Masbang 11, Coyukang 8, Williams 4, Rectaga 3, Kalaw 0, Sta. Cruz 0.

Quarters: 29-28, 54-52, 69-72, 92-87

* * *

TRIBU 89—Ababon 12, Quinaham 11, Almacin 11, Gadiane 9, Co 6, Santos 6, Sevilla 6, Berami 5, Caparros 5, Mercado 4, De Guzman 4, Bucao 4, Ramoneda 4, Ceniza 2.

CELLULAR 76—Ico 17, Go 14, Tiongson 10, Aclon 8, Serio 6, Dela Rea 5, Balares 3, Giron 3, Aquino 3, Salud 2, Taligatos 2, Torato 1

Quarters: 25-14, 50-31, 74-55, 89-76

SPORTSWATCH

Dancesport congress set

THE PHILIPPINE PROFESSIONAL DANCE SPORT Association (PPDSA) will hold the WCDSF World Open Dance Sport Congress and Tournament at the Pagcor Grand Theater, Airport Casino Filipino in Sucat, Parañaque on Dec. 3. Competitition events for grade school, high school and college students, as well as adult, senior and professional dancers are on tap. For inquiries, call 410-1719, text 0916-366 0490 or email presidentppdsa@yahoo.com

Remembering 'Coach'

A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR 1960 MR. FOOTBALL Orlando Doromal Plagata is scheduled at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Faith Baptist Church on Bulletin Road, West Avenue, Quezon City. A former member of the national football team as well as coach of the Far Eastern and Polytechnic University teams, "Coach" Plagata died last year in Bacolod City.

'Bakbakan' elims get going

THE ELIMINATION ROUND OF THE NATIONAL BAKbakan 9-Stag Derby gets under way today at the Araneta Coliseum. Sponsored by Asvet, Lakpue Drug Inc., Gran Matador, Derby Ace and Purina, today's 3-stag elimination round is exclusive to members of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA). The first of 75 matches sizzles at 3 p.m. LGBA members may also join another "Bakbakan" eliminations on Nov. 4 at the San Juan Coliseum. For inquiries, call the LGBA office at 926-7808 or 924-5072.

65 fights in SJC derby today

SIXTY-FIVE FIGHTS ARE ON TAP IN THE SJC CIRcuit 5-Stag Derby today at the San Juan Coliseum. The event comes on the heels of the 175-fight "Bugbugan" 5-stag derby on Saturday won by Dong Chung of Rizal province with his entry Doc Liberty. Today's event, sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, will showcase the entries of Pol Estrellado, Totoy Haruta, Emil Chua, Dr. Boy Tuazon, Mayor Wawao Ramos, Eddie Aparri, Rep. Anthony Miranda, Louie Cua, Mayor Dennis Pineda, Du Santos, Dennis Morales, Clyde Benebese, Mario Garcia, among others. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 725-6563.

'Labanan' entry deadline up

TODAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF entries in the "No Entry Fee Labanan 7-Stag Derby slated Oct. 24 and 26 at the Araneta Coliseum. Some 100 cockers and breeders, including walk-in participants, will vie for P1.3 million in guaranteed prizes in the derby supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and conceptualized by popular cockfighter Patrick Antonio. Tomorrow's 150-fight elimination round will start at 1 p.m. Participants only need to bring proof of purchase of any Sagupaan products. For inquiries, call 0916-4763030 or 0917-8064758.

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'S: Sisters Michelle (left) and Sheryl Laborte take a after their gruelling 21-5, 21-14 victory over ersity rivals Kat Villaluz and Arlene Bernardo in the yball Battle of Champions at the KidzWorld ure Resort. ROMY HOMILLADA

University Games under way today

By Cedelf P. Tupas
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—AFTER FALLING short in the UAAP, the Far Eastern University Lady Tamaraws and Ateneo de Manila University Lady Eagles test the mettle of Visayan teams today in the 11th National University Games.

The Lady Tamaraws, who lost to the University of Santo Tomas Tigresses in the UAAP finals last month, go up against Silliman University at 9:30 a.m. at the Natalio Velez Gym in Silay City, while the Ateneans take on Iloilo's University of San Agustin (USA) cagerettes at 12 noon at the St. La Salle Gym.

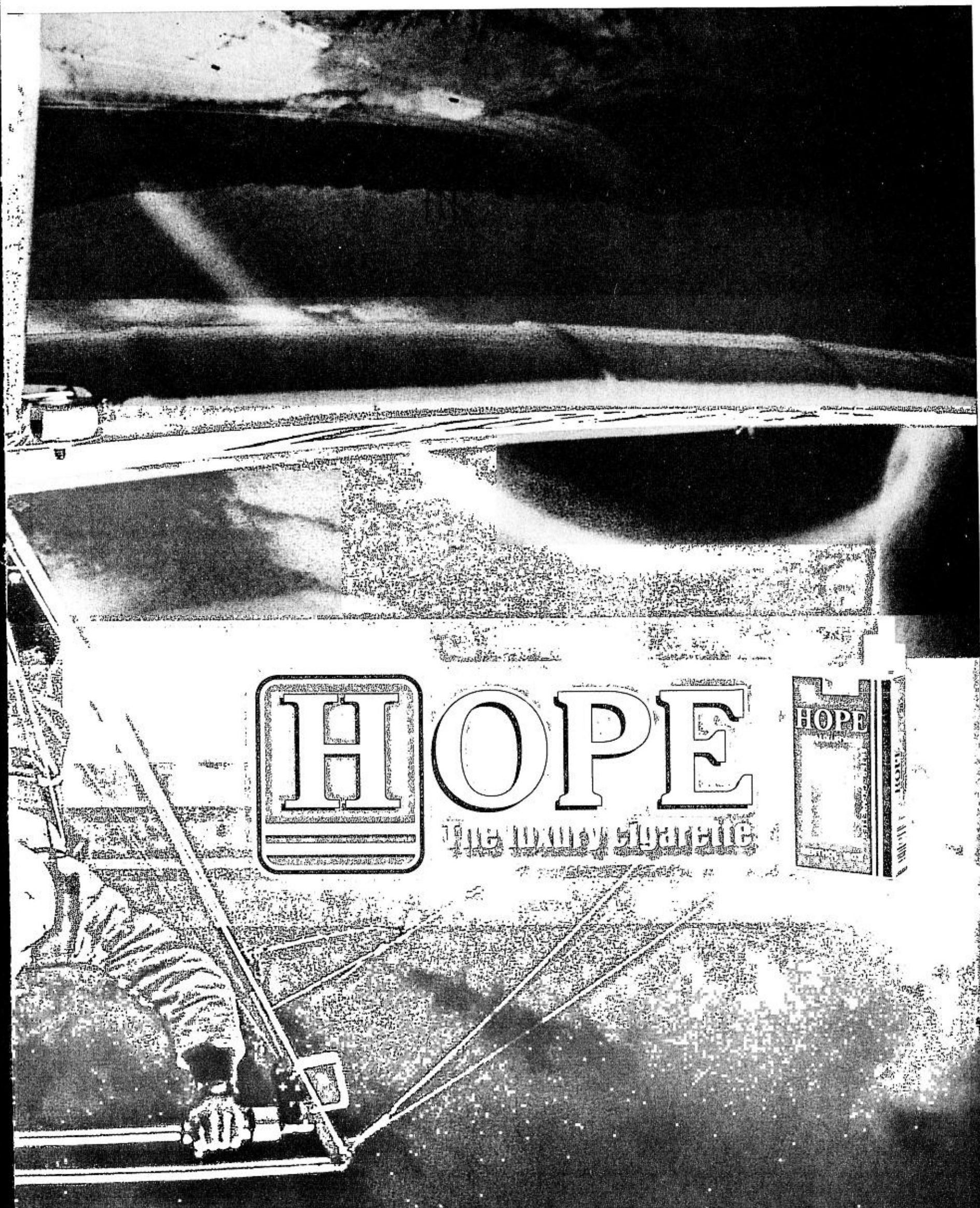
Also seeing action today is the St. Francis of Assisi Doves, last year's losing finalists, who will face the USA five in Group B of men's basketball. Defending champion West Negros College opens up against UNP at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

The University Games get going at 6 p.m. today with commissioner Richie Garcia of the Philippine Sports Commission keynoting the kickoff rites, which will feature the winning street dancing group in the Bacolod MassKara Festival.

With about 2,000 athletes from 50 schools seeing action, this year's edition is the biggest ever since the event was started in 1996, according to UniGames secretary general Roger Banzuela.

Men's volleyball has drawn the most number of teams with 27. Other events are athletics, badminton, basketball, chess, football, lawn tennis, table tennis, swimming, taekwondo, volleyball and men's sepak takraw.

Far Eastern University is the defending champion in men and women's volleyball and men's taekwondo, while De La Salle University is seeking its eighth straight women's football title. University of the East hopes to repeat in women's taekwondo, while host St. La Salle goes for three straight titles in men's football.



HOPE
The Untold Story
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HOPE

El Terrible must next avoid La Spaghetti

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE REPORT WAS right. Erik Morales has won the first round.

But it's in no way similar to Mayor Jojo Binay's Round 1 triumph against the desperate, hard-pressing Arroyo government.

Morales, a future Hall-of-Famer, passed the initial test in Saturday's public weigh-in conducted by the WBC in Mexico City.

The 30-year-old Mexican boxing great tipped the scales at 142 lb, one under the limit stipulated by the world boxing body a month before his forthcoming showdown with Manny Pacquiao.

Actually, Morales could have weighed another pound more and still gotten the nod.

* * *

But here's the harsh truth.

It was just a minor battle won by Morales. Or, to score it strictly, it was no win at all—an empty victory.

Why? Well, Morales next has to go to war.

No. Not immediately against Pacquiao, whom he fights for the third time in Las Vegas on Nov. 18.

The war Morales has to next wage will be against himself and the terrible weighing scales.

This war promises to be a bitter one.

For one, Morales, already famished, will have to cruelly drain his body in order to make the 130-lb limit for his third encounter with Pacquiao.

* * *

OK, Morales, as he would claim, may have felt truly strong after making 142 lb Saturday.

Forget the suspicion that Morales, after having reportedly ballooned to 162 lb, must've skipped dinner to score big during the morning public weigh-in.

The central problem: how to shed 12 lb more after having already undergone a special weight-reducing regimen for nearly three months?

If Morales had, say, gone at least a pound below 140 after the series of conditioning workouts, he would have still been on target.

The big, intriguing question now is how much would still remain of the tough, tested warrior once Morales has been painfully squeezed down to 130 lb for the official weigh-in on Nov. 17?

How much of the old, original juice would be left?

Yes, he may again be able to make the limit as he had done last January in his rematch with Pacquiao, who proceeded to stop him in the 10th round.

But will Morales again turn to some artificial agent, or seek abnormal intervention, in order to make the official super featherweight limit?

* * *

This brings to mind what veteran international matchmaker Rafael Mendoza had said in Manila last July that Morales would've to cut off both legs in order to make 130 lb for his Grand Finale meeting with Pacquiao.

Well, that may be a bit exaggerated, but Mendoza was readily acquitted by the massive poundage Morales had to submit after having undergone what his camp claimed was the toughest reducing regimen for El Terrible.

Señor Mendoza, whose fighter Oscar Larios provided Pacquiao a fitting 12-round preparatory workout for the third fight with Morales, must've meant El Terrible was bound to lose his legs early in his forthcoming encounter with Pacman.

Mendoza did not say it. But it's no secret how the legs of an over-drained fighter sag and behave queerly like soaked spaghetti in the heat of battle.

Morales, inactive, has less than a month to find a cure for this lurking disease.

Gorres stops foe in fourth; Banal scores

MANDAUE CITY—Z "THE DREAM" GORRES and Alex John Banal of the ALA Boxing Club outclassed their respective Indonesian foes Saturday night in the co-feature of the "War in the Ring" card at the jampacked Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex here.

Gorres scored a fourth-round technical knockout over Sony Manakane and declared himself ready for a shot at the World Boxing Organization super flyweight title of Fernando Montiel.

The 17-year-old Banal was brilliant in whipping Angky Angkota by unanimous decision.

Banal improved his unbeaten record to 10 wins (8 KOs) and 1 draw and earned a stint at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym next month.

Other results: Milan Milendo d. Ricardo Albia, TKO (3); Mark Jason Melligen d. Cris Alag, UD; Joseph Ornanz d. Tata Galendez, KO (1); Dennis Juntillano d. Roldan Malinao, UD; Jun Intor d. Carlo Magale, technical decision (7); Weng Haya d. Markyll Taroja, UD; Fernando Otik d. Elmar Colve, TKO (2); Gil Melligen d. Jovi Merca, KO (2). ***Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor***

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SPORTS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2006

WORLD SERIES

Cardinals grab Game One

DETROIT—ROOKIE ANTHONY REYES pitched brilliantly, and Albert Pujols and Scott Rolen homered to lead the St. Louis Cardinals past the Detroit Tigers, 7-2, in the World Series opener on Saturday.

Game 2 is on Sunday, with Kenny Rogers pitching for Detroit against ex-Tiger Jeff Weaver.

With the Tigers hosting their first World Series in 22 years, fans showed up hoping to see rookie Justin Verlander buzz through a St. Louis team that scraped its way past the New York Mets in a seven-game National League championship series that had wrapped up less than 48 hours earlier.

But instead, Reyes easily outpitched Verlander in the first Game 1 matchup between rookies, silencing the Detroit crowd early and ending the Tigers' seven-game postseason winning streak.

"I don't know if I can top this," Reyes said.

Reyes retired 17 consecutive batters before Carlos Guillen's seventh-inning single and was lifted after Craig Monroe homered on the first pitch of the ninth.

"He doesn't scare, he's got great composure—and when he gets it rolling he's got great weapons," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said.

Braden Looper finished off St. Louis' first World Series victory since 1987, stopping an eight-game Series losing streak for NL teams.

THE CARDINALS' Albert Pujols (left) hits a two-run home run in the third inning and Tigers catcher Ivan Rodriguez can only watch. REUTERS

Carrying only two players with World Series experience, the young Tigers appeared a little jittery, making wild throws and key mistakes. They'd also had a week off, and simply looked rusty.

Detroit was supposed to have the edge on the mound in Game 1. Verlander is a leading candidate for American League Rookie of the Year, while Reyes went 5-8 with a 5.06 ERA in 17 regular-season starts. He started only because none of the Cardinals' three top pitchers were ready to go.

Reyes had the fewest wins of any Game 1 starter in World Series history and was the first in 33 years with a losing regular-season record. He wasn't even on the Cardinals' roster for their first-round series against San Diego.

But peering from under a starch-stiff cap and with his red-and-white socks pulled high, Reyes allowed only four hits and one walk.

"That style is not that attractive," La Russa said. "I don't think it's going to be copied widely by the kids of America."

Soon after, Reyes explained.

"The hat helps me see a little bit, gets more light in. I can see the signs a little better," he said.

Detroit got on the board early, momentarily delighting the crowd of 42,479. Monroe, an unheralded player showing off a wealth of skills in these playoffs, doubled in the first inning and scored on Guillen's two-out single.

Rolen tied the score at 1 with a solo home run in the second.

Yadier Molina got St. Louis going again in the third with a leadoff single. He scored on Chris Duncan's two-out double. *AP*

SHARAPOVA: Finals-bound AP

No. 1 within Maria's reach

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND—MARIA SHARAPOVA kept alive her chance to finish the year ranked No. 1, beating Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia 7-6 (3), 6-2 Saturday despite an aching foot to reach the Zurich Open final. The US Open champion is ranked No. 2 behind Amelie Mauresmo, who withdrew from the tournament Thursday with a shoulder injury. Sharapova, seeded second, will play for the title Sunday against Daniela Hantuchova, who upset third-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova, 6-4, 6-2. Sharapova was forced from the quarterfinals in Moscow last week because of pain in her right foot. But the Russian showed some agility against Srebotnik and finished with 13 aces. Sharapova broke Srebotnik at 4-4 in the opening set, but the Slovenian recovered her serve in the following game. Sharapova then saved a set point with an ace and soon evened the score at 6-6 with an unreturnable serve and an unforced error by Srebotnik. *AP*

Schumacher takes hit in final race

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—MICHAEL Schumacher's chances of retiring from Formula One with one final championship took a hit on Saturday.

A mechanical problem in qualifying for the Brazilian Grand Prix sent the seven-time champion to the middle of the starting grid, behind series leader Fernando Alonso of Renault. Schumacher will start Sunday's season finale in 10th position, while Alonso will start fourth.

Schumacher's Ferrari teammate Felipe Massa, racing in front of his home crowd, won the pole position in 1 minute, 10.680 seconds at the 4.3-kilometer Interlagos circuit.

"It is more difficult from 10th position," Schumacher said. "The only thing we do now is wait and see how the race will develop and make the best you can out of the situation. It would have been nice and more interesting to drive the race from the front."

Schumacher, ending a 16-year Formula One career, trails Alonso by 10 points and needs to win Sunday's race to keep alive his chances for the title. Alonso can win his second consecutive championship by finishing eighth or better.

"Things are looking better for us, for sure, but we cannot write him off," Alonso said, referring to Schumacher. "My aim will be to get a good start and fight at the front."

Schumacher's chances for the pole were shattered because of a mechanical failure in the last part of Saturday's qualifying session.

"The car had a fuel pressure problem and all I could do was cruise around slowly back to the pits," he said.

The seven-time champion sat in his car while Ferrari mechanics frantically tried to fix the problem.

"I tried to concentrate, maybe we could repair it and still go out," Schumacher said. "It obviously took too long."

He wasn't able to leave the pits for a hot lap until less than 2 minutes remained in the session, and didn't post a time.

"Of course I am disappointed, but these things can happen," he said. "The only good part of today is that Felipe is on the pole."

It was Massa's third career pole position. He won his first F1 race from the pole at the Turkish GP in August.

"It's a sensational day for me, I'm sure I'll never forget—this race is very special," Massa said. "It's one of the happiest days of my life." *AP*

Arevalo, Ricamonte top S'woods golf

AFTER FIGURING IN A SIX-WAY TIE for the top award in regulation play, Theresa Arevalo and her guest partner Carina Ricamonte relied on a lower handicap to clinch the overall title in the Southwoods Invitational at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite.

Arevalo returned scores of 47-46 while Ricamonte tallied 39-43 to hit the maximum score of 82 for two days at the Masters and Legends courses of Southwoods and went on to emerge champions with their handicaps of 22 and 5, respectively.

The teams of Virgilio David-Pablo Ernesto, Arlette Dizon-Ha Ye Jin Lee and Felix Cortez-Jan Tambogon also wound up with 164s like Arevalo-Ricamonte but had to settle for the division crowns.

David and Ernesto, with handicaps of 11 and 18, beat Joey Crisostomo and Tony Albaniel by one for the Group B crown, Dizon-Park (19 and 9) edged Jun De Grano and Jose Benjamin Angeles in a tiebreak to top Group C and Cortez-Tambogon won over Buddy Cabrera-Louie Bustamante also via a tiebreak.

Ryan Abdon and his partner collected 163 for a two-point win over Korean expats Hyun Min Kang-Chang Ho Kim in Group A.

Theody Pascual and Wilbert Tan, in the running for the net title after Day 1, captured the overall low gross award with their ffort of 297. Pascual had rounds of 72-70 while Tan made 78-77.

Manila Southwoods chair of the board Bob Sobrepeña and sports and games chair Butch Campos raffled off the five major prizes originally staked as hole-in-one prizes but were not won.

The night's big winner was Eugene Arriesgado who won the top raffle prize of Mitsubishi Lancer GL-M/T.

CHAMPIONS: THE University of Santo Tomas Tiger Sharks celebrate clinching the championship in the 69th UAAP swimming tournament women's division for the third consecutive year, and the runner-up trophy in the college men's division recently at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. With them are coach Cyrus Alcantara and his assistant Cesar Augustus Alcantara.

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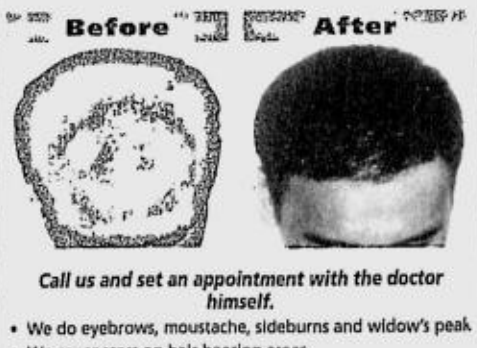

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Greens-sharp . . . From page A27

won over Louie Garcia.

The Archers took three matches to grab the lead for the first time.

JP Reyes made short work of Pepot Iñigo, 6 and 5, and William Hong and Miko Yee defeated separate opponents on the 18th hole.

Yee won his match when Manoling Chan three-putted from 45 feet while Hong got the better of Jeric Hechanova.

In two other matches that ended on the 16th hole, La Salle's youthful Justin Limjap and Ateneo's Jingy Tuason emerged winners.

Limjap outdueled veteran Iggy Clavecilla, 3 and 2, while Tuason upended Ronnie Littaua by the same score.

Ateneo still had a chance to square the match in the last remaining flight, but Raffy Garcia stuck his six-iron approach from 165 yards to within six inches of the cup on the 17th hole to tie Jose Mari Hechanova end secure the win for La Salle.

Ateneo skipper Teboy Javier was gracious in defeat. "La Salle played well," Javier said. "We were all tired, but La Salle got all the breaks."

Mendoza thought they had fresher legs. "We could still play nine holes," said Mendoza who had seven players below 20 years old.

MEMBERS OF the Red Team, including Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero (No. 15), celebrate after beating the Blue team in the finals of the recent FINEX basketball championship.

Peñalosa stops former titlist

FORMER WORLD CHAMPION GERRY PEñalosa impressed his new handlers led by Oscar De la Hoya with a ninth-round knockout of former WBO bantam titlist Mauricio Martinez yesteday in their non-title fight at the Don Haskins Center in El Paso, Texas.

The 34-year-old Peñalosa dropped the WBO No. 1 bantam Martinez in the opening round, bucked a left hand injury to score another knockdown in the fourth before finally halting the Panamanian at 1:06 of the ninth.

At the time of the stoppage, Peñalosa was leading on the scorecards of all three judges.

The 34th KO win by Peñalosa boosted his record to 51-5-2, while Martinez dropped to 31 (21 KOs) against 7 losses and 1 draw.

Golden Boy Promotions, De la Hoya's outfit, said a title crack for the Filipino is being arranged, possibly against WBO champ Jhonny Gonzales. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Romero leads Red to Finex title

THE RED TEAM, BANNERED BY HARBOUR Centre owner Mikee Romero, outclassed the Blue Team, 58-48, to rule the recent 15th Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) basketball championship.

RCBC's EVP Perry Uy and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Raymund del Val joined hands with Romero for the victory over the likes of Banco de Oro's Ed Francisco, PNB's Mon David and Philamlife's Boysie Henares.

Romero, a member of La Salle varsity team in the 90s also emerged the most valuable player in the tournament with his big shots and baffling playmaking.

Finex is an association of the country's top 1,000 CEO's and CFO's. Some 700 top executives are taking part in the annual event.

Romero, 36, exploded for 26 points in a brilliant show of shooting accuracy.

The Red squad, which also topped the elimination round, also got big games from Export-Import Bank's Rolly Valenzuela, UCPB's EVP Boy Rubio, Isuzu's Raymund Jarina, JR and Jonathan del Val; and Carlo and Billy Rubio.

Other members of the Blue squad were Merchant Bank's Serge Esguerra, Allied Bank's Ernie Albano, ATR-Lim Eng's Billy Cortez and Maxicare's Louie Montoya.

Led ABS-CBN's IT director Johnny Sy, Green team finished third while Yello placed fourth.

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Potential labor dispute brewing at Mirant

Local employees worried, turn to DOLE for help

By Abigail L. Ho

ACCUSING ATLANTA-BASED MIRANT CORP. OF RACIAL DISCRIMInation and of issuing false statements, employees of Mirant Philippines Corp. have turned to the Department of Labor and Employment for help to settle a "potential labor dispute" related to the sale of the American firm's Philippine assets.

In three separate petitions filed with the DOLE last Friday, corporate employee representatives Joyce Bellas, Maria Anna delos Reyes and Andres Boron urged the labor department to intervene in a "potential labor dispute that may result in massive labor unrest of employees," leading to a possible disruption of power supply in Luzon.

Mirant Philippines' more than 1,200 employees said the company's current management failed to provide them with a definite program that would protect their interest once Mirant had sold its Philippine holdings.

"The employees persistently demanded this protection from the management, but management consistently ignored, despite oral and written demands, to specifically and definitely address these concerns," a letter addressed to Labor Secretary Arturo Brion stated.

Employees are seeking the formalization of a severance policy that will guarantee a severance

POTENTIAL/ B5

Cebu Pacific loses Japan entitlements to PAL

By Riza T. Olchondra

CEBU PACIFIC HAS LOST ITS remaining 4.5 flight entitlements to Japan to rival Philippine Airlines (PAL).

Under the Philippine-Japan air service agreement, Cebu Pacific had seven flight entitlements to Japan.

The same agreement said frequency entitlements are measured by coefficients, with one roundtrip flight equivalent to one coefficient using a Boeing 575 aircraft, which has a seating capacity of 228; 1.5 coefficients for an Airbus 330, which can carry 250 to 293 passengers, and two coefficients for Boeing 747, which has a seating capacity of 347 to 490.

However, the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) recalled Cebu Pacific's seven entitlements to Japan last month when the budget carrier failed to serve its seven roundtrip flight entitlements at a pre-agreed date.

"They (Cebu Pacific) were not able to operate (flights to Japan) by Sept. 15," CAB deputy executive director Carmelo L. Arcilla said in an interview.

The regulator first transferred 2.5 of the seven coeffi-

CEBU/ B5

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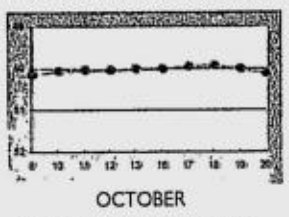

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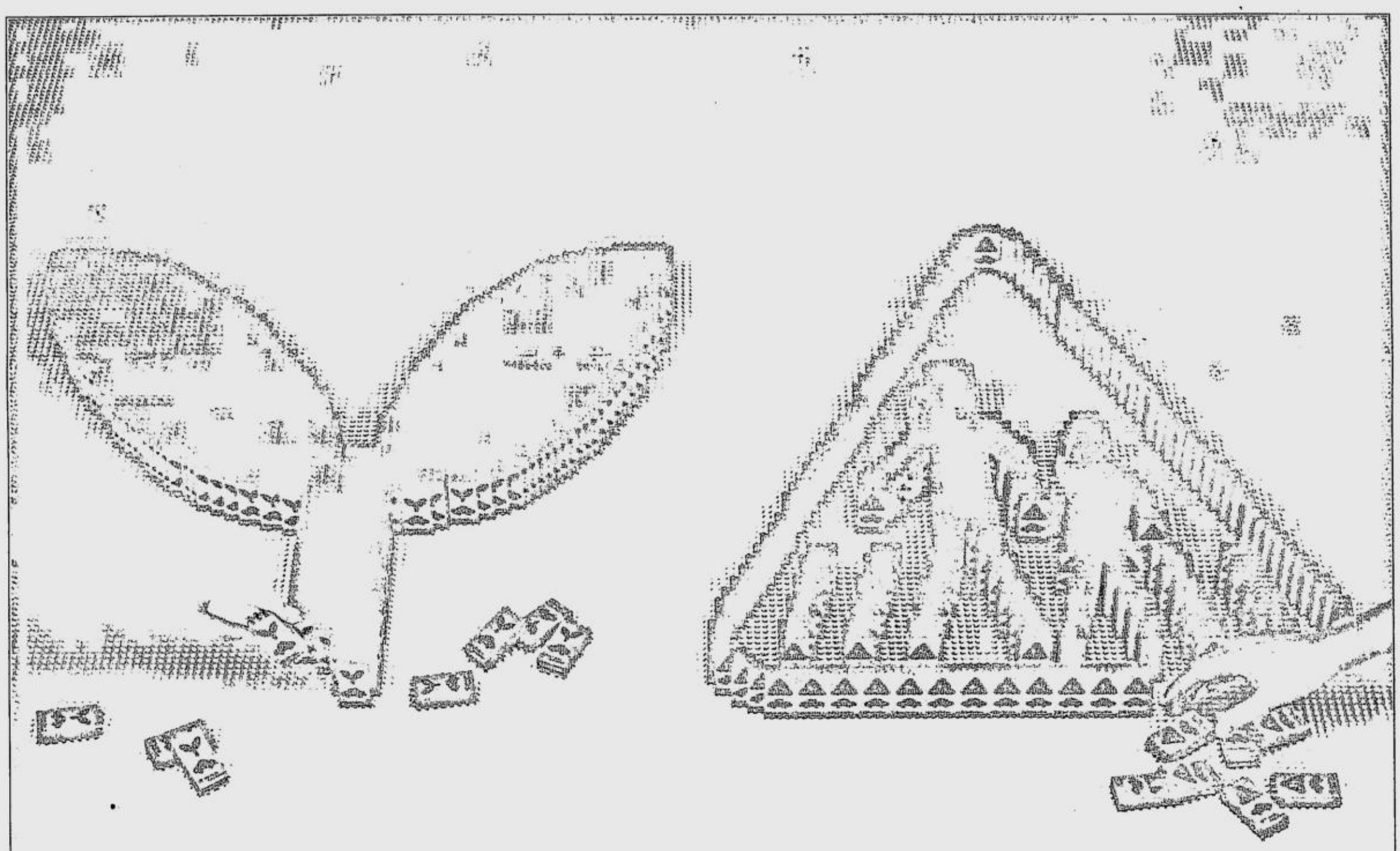

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Cielito F. Habito

ONE OF THE MOST PERCEPTIVE speeches about our current business climate and the overall economy made in last week's Philippine Business Conference didn't quite receive as much attention or airplay as it deserves. Unfortunately, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri's candid presentation on Philippine competitiveness got imbedded in a session focused on taxation and fiscal reforms. This deflected attention from the more crucial elements of his analysis of impediments to realizing the Philippines' full economic potentials.

Wrong audience?

Perhaps, this annual gathering of the biggest names in Philippine business could not be expected to be the most receptive audience to his candid diagnosis. After all, his thesis is that the ultimate source of our economy's uncompetitiveness is the thin line between the economic and political power of an oligarchic elite lording it over our society, economy and politics. Put another way, there is an unspoken unholy alliance between big business interests and the political powers in control of our state institutions, and this has consistently held our economic progress back for decades.

Still, the greater part of Neri's audience last week did not have to feel alluded to, as the membership of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) certainly goes well beyond those who may be considered part of this oligarchic elite that the progressive Neda chief refers to. Nor does this oligarchic elite necessarily include all the big business players, as there will always be some among them who for one reason or another are not in good graces with the powers that be at a particular point in time.

Vicious cycles

Central to Secretary Neri's analysis is what he calls the vicious cycles of booty capitalism, poor governance, poverty and social chaos. And it all traces to how the effective control over politics by a powerful few (the "oligarchic elite") leads to distorted policies and weak institutions, i.e. where good economics and the greater public interest give way to the narrow interests of a favored few.

Examples of distorted policies abound: The watered-down sin taxes law, the recent EO 553, inordinate trade protection for a few selected sectors, redundant fiscal incentives, and so on. The weakness in our institutions has never been more manifest than as we have been witnessing in the past two years. The other manifestation that Secretary Neri highlights is "regulatory capture," or the proneness to undue influence of our regulatory bodies by the very firms they are supposed to regulate.

All these further reinforce the economic power of the oligarchy, which in turn reinforces their influence and outright control over politics (e.g. via election campaign financing), thereby bringing us full circle.

Perpetuating backwardness

Meanwhile, this vicious cycle of self-reinforcing economic and political power perpetuates our perennial problems of poverty and high unemployment, poor education and health, and low respect for the law. Neri identifies two routes by which this happens.

First, distorted policies and weak institutions deter job-creating investments by both foreign and domestic business interests. Indeed, one of the most alarming economic statistics of late is the continuing decline in investments in the country starting in early 2005—whereas the graphs are all moving up among our neighbors! And as I pointed out last week, this is in spite of tremendous growth in our foreign direct investments, telling us that it is in domestic investments where our problem lies.

Second, policy distortions and weak institutions, enhanced by endemic corruption in the bureaucracies, lead to the "sale of rules" (e.g. official sanctions on unwarranted monopolies, or even contract reversals to favor cronies) and diversion of public expenditures away from more urgent and more basic needs of the greater majority.

Firewalling the managers

As a reactor to Neri's speech (along with that of Secretary Teves on the fiscal situation) in the same program, I could not but agree with his analysis. The same thesis was in fact expounded in the paper "Beneath the Fiscal Crisis" released by Ateneo economists and political scientists over a year ago. And this characterization of the Philippine political economy is shared by numerous authors in and out of the country as well.

The problem is that our economic managers, competent and well-meaning as I know they are, can only do so much. Our friend, Congressman Joey Salceda, asserts that the government has managed to "firewall" the economy from the ongoing political turmoil. But from what I see, our economic managers often appear to be the ones firewalled out of certain critical decisions with profound implications on the economy. For as long as unseen political forces—the same ones Secretary Neri laments—hold sway over the sound advice of our competent economic managers, it would be very hard indeed for us to be part of the East Asian Renaissance that World Bank Country director Joachim von Amsberg had inspired the same audience with in his opening keynote at that conference.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

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BPI's Christmas gravy

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

ON TOP OF THE P1.80 ANNUAL cash dividend, and another 20-percent stock dividend, the nearly 15,000 shareholders of Bank of the Philippine Islands should expect an extra P1 cash dividend in time for the holidays.

The Zobel bank has altogether allocated more than P2.7 billion to spread a little Christmas cheer that even the exuberant few who unfortunately acquired the stock at the high-end P62.50/share at about the same time last year—BPI closed Friday at P58.50—will have reason to smile.

Let us do some numbers-crunching.

The P62.50 acquisition cost will have translated itself, after the 20 percent share dividend, into P50/share.

With Friday's close, the post-dividend price already translates to an P8.50-share price gain, year-on-year; with the P2.80 cash dividend tacked on, the combined yield ratches up to about 22.6 percent.

Even better, those who correctly timed the market and picked up the stock at the P50 range in the same quarter last year means that, post-share dividend, their average acquisition cost goes down to P40/share.

Adding the P2.80 cash dividends with the P18.50-share price gain translates to an effective and generous 53.25-percent annual yield.

For a conservative, straight-laced bank, that certainly beats by far what BPI pays depositors, which is anywhere from 0.875-percent interest for an Express Teller peso savings account holder to 2.875-percent annual yield for a platinum depositor, one who maintains at least P1 million average daily balance.

Aside from the Singaporeans and the Zobels, the two biggest BPI shareholders, the Archdiocese of Manila should be thankful for the good tidings in these ungrateful climes—about 8.47 percent of the P2.7-billion blessings would accrue to Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales and his favorite charities. Another winner: A certain Liberato de Jesus of Tonsuya, Malabon, who, at more than 1.35 million shares as of end-2005, is listed as the biggest individual single shareholder, beating even the likes of Vicente Madrigal Warns and former BPI president Xavier Loinaz.

Scout attack

HOW would you like your girl scout daughter or younger sister to go out on a jamboree and share the same camp with boy scouts?

The Girl Scouts of the Philippines is not only horrified at the thought, but revolted that a bill has been filed in Congress that could end up forcing the marriage of the girl scouts group with the boy scouts'.

A bill filed by Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino renaming the Boy Scouts of the Philippines into Scouts Philippines has already passed third and final reading in the House.

But, even before the bill could be passed by the Senate and enacted into law, the Boy Scouts have already been recruiting girls from 14 years up to join their movement.

The Boy Scouts, incidentally, is headed by Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, while the Girl Scouts count on no less than Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as chief scout.

According to the grapevine, Girl Scouts president Teresita Choa is now working on GMA's congressional allies to not only block the Aquino bill but also push for the passage of a separate Girl Scouts bill to ensure that the corporate identity of the female group remains.

More than the gender divide, the Girl Scouts also has a number of real estate holdings in key cities throughout the country.

Money-go-round

• CITIBANK has been ordered by the Supreme Court to return about $150,000 in deposits, plus interest, that it seized way back in 1979 from Geneva depositor, Pangasinan realtor Modesta Sabeniano.

In addition, the multinational bank was also ordered to return more than P520,000 in promissory notes, plus 14.5-percent interest from 1977, to Sabeniano.

Sabeniano, in return, was ordered to pay Citibank P1.069 million in loan plus interest the businesswoman-politician borrowed in 1979.

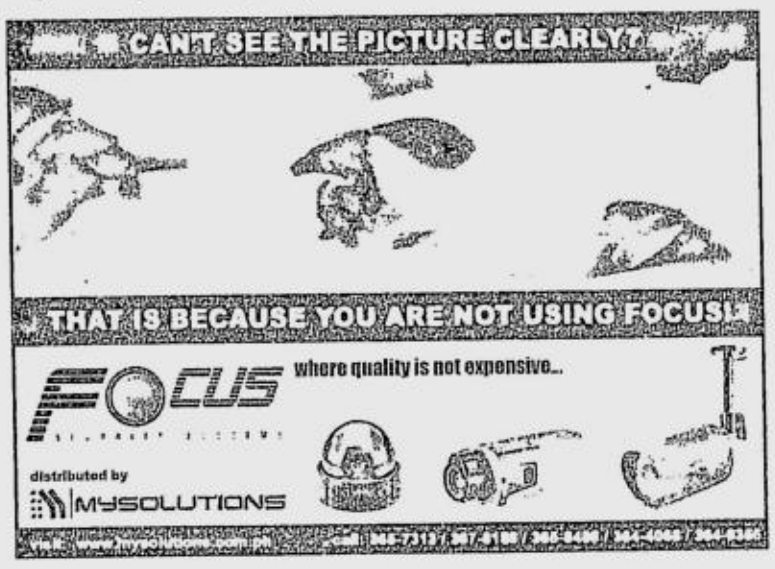
• TAKENAKA is grumbling that it has not received a single centavo from the P3-billion payment released by the government to Piatco.

Heard through the grapevine

MARK JIMENEZ was apparently out not only to clear his name but to settle scores against his former PR consultant, Jose Manuel "Babe" Romualdez, and Romualdez's partner, publisher Maximo Soliven, when he appeared last week in Ricky Carandang's talk show on ANC.

It was the former Manila congressman who presented himself to Carandang to ask the broadcaster that he be invited to the talk show.

(Email: cocktales@cocktales.biz)



Mitsubishi keeps plan to make RP an export base

Local multi-purpose vehicles or AUVs for overseas market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MITSUBISHI MOTORS PHILIPPINES Corp. is holding on to plans of making the country one of the Mitsubishi group's global export base of completely built vehicles.

The company, however, has yet to make an investment decision in line with this plan.

Company senior vice president Melchor R. Dizon said in an interview that the initial concept for the vehicle, initially called Zinger, was being reevaluated.

Dizon said the initial plan was to make an entry-level SUV, but this would be probably repackaged into a multi-purpose vehicle or an Asian utility vehicle.

"(The Zinger) is actually being made already in Taiwan," he said. "But two more production bases are being considered, possibly China and the Philippines."

In a 2004 interview, Dizon had said DaimlerChrysler's (the biggest stockholder of Mitsubishi Motors with a 37-percent stake) announcement that it was not infusing new capital into Mitsubishi gave opportunities for MMPC to be the group's overseas production base of a new SUV model.

Mitsubishi has existing production facilities in the Philippines and all that is needed is to modernize them to be competitive in the export market, he said.

This remarks came in the wake of an MMPC announcement that year that it was laying out P10 billion for an SUV export project that called for the production of at least 200,000 units in six to seven years from 2006.

Two-thirds of the output would be earmarked for export to the Southeast Asian market and possibly to the Middle East, Africa and South America.

The project was expected to yield between $200 million and $240 million in export value yearly and generate 6,000 new jobs. It is also expected to absorb P5.5 billion worth of local automotive parts a year.

Still, Dizon said MMPC was bent on keeping the second place in the local industry in terms of sales, saying the company was ready to undertake aggressive promotions to do so.

Last week, MMPC launched three new models-the 2007 Strada pick up, Eclipse sports car and the Lancer Evolution IX. sedan.

He said the company would be introducing three or four more models in the next 15 months, including the Endeavor SUV, which would be imported from the United States.

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Napocor expects to post profit in '06

By Abigail L. Ho

AS THE PESO CONTINUES TO STRENGTHen against the dollar, state-run National Power Corp. expects to post a positive operating income or even a net income this year.

Napocor president Cyril del Callar said it was difficult to project a specific number at this point, as the reckoning of foreign exchange gains or losses would be in end-December.

Despite this, he expressed confidence that Napocor would post at least positive earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda), an indicator of cash flow, this year.

"Our fighting target is to sustain the profit posted last year," he told reporters at the sidelines of the 32nd Philippine Business Conference last week.

The stronger peso, he said, would contribute to Napocor's expected positive financial results for the year.

He said that for every P1 gain or loss against the dollar, the impact on Napocor was around P15 billion.

Last year, Napocor posted a net income of almost P86 billion, after almost a decade in the red.

Del Callar attributed last year's turnaround to substantial foreign exchange gains, stringent cost-cutting measures, reduced oil-based generation and the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of its new rates.

Napocor registered gains of P65.3 billion from the peso appreciation and the better collection efficiency, he said.

The state firm's finance department, he said, had been using P52:$1 as the exchange rate for its financial projections.

These past weeks, the peso-dollar rate had been steady at the 50:1 level.

That should have a positive impact on the company's bottom line, he said, even though the reckoning date would not be until Dec. 31.

In terms of power sales, he said sales were good in the third quarter, as they traditionally are due to increased production from industries preparing for the holiday season.

"Demand is picking up. The third quarter is historically a strong quarter as exporters rush to meet orders for Christmas. In the fourth quarter, residential power demand usually picks up," he said.

Tuna firm eyes bigger share of Middle East mart

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ALLIANCE TUNA INTERNATIONAL INC. IS considering expanding its market in Dubai or Africa by setting up a marketing office in any of these two locations, company president Jonathan Dee said.

Dee said statistics showed that these areas import a lot of tuna although his company had yet to penetrate these markets.

The Middle East is Alliance Tuna's third largest export market next to Europe and the United States and Canada.

He said Alliance Tuna might forge possible partnerships with trading firms or with distribution companies in either Dubai, for the Middle East market, or Africa.

The company manufactures canned tuna and other processed seafoods in its facilities in General Santos City. It also maintains a marketing office in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Securities and Exchange Commission earlier approved an application of Alliance Tuna for the registration of its shares, which will pave the way for its maiden offering at the local bourse next month.

It will be the third company to hold initial public offering (IPO) this year, after First Generation Corp. and CitisecOnline.

In documents filed with the SEC, Alliance Tuna estimated that it would generate between P149 million and P199 million from the IPO.

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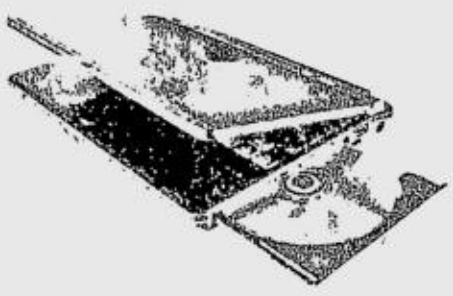

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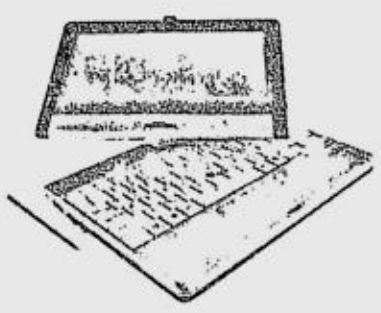

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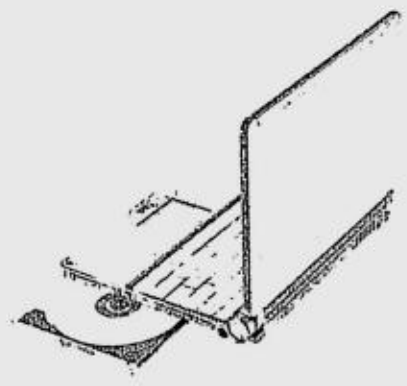

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Debate on loans to small, medium firms rages

SB Corp. wants banks to lend more capital; banks hesitant

By Daxim L. Lucas

MANY SMALL AND MEDIUM enterprises in the country still lack access to capital, despite government's promise to put more funds within reach of this crucial economic segment.

According to the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), a large number of its 20,000-odd members nationwide remain cut off from the formal banking system.

This is either because they are perceived to be unworthy of credit, or they lack the expertise and savvy to navigate the intricacies of the banking system.

Lack of access

"The consistent top complaints of our small members is the lack of access to loans," PCCI president Donald Dee said in an interview. "Banks are always hesitant to lend to small companies."

And for good reason: The local banking industry is still reeling from the slow-burn effects of the 1997 East Asian financial crisis.

Yesterday's gung-ho bankers have today turned gun shy, often insisting on a solid business plan, a good track record and valuable collateral before loans can be approved—precisely the elements that SMEs lack, according to Dee.

Now, SME advocates want this situation remedied, urging government to enact laws that will compel banks to lend more to this sector, which provides work to an estimated four million employees nationwide.

At the forefront of this campaign is the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. (SB Corp.), a unit of the Department of Trade and Industry charged with helping bridge the gap between SMEs and the banking community.

Amendments urged

SB Corp. is urging Congress to approve amendments to the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises of 1991, which provides for the mandatory allocation of a percentage of bank loans to this underprivileged sector.

In particular, SB Corp. president Benel P. Lagua wants Congress to extend the life of the law—which is originally set to expire by May 2007—by another 10 years.

More importantly, the agency wants Congress to compel banks to lend more money to SMEs, much to the consternation of bankers who are skeptical about directed credit programs in general.

"We are asking Congress to increase the mandatory allocation from 8 percent [of banks' loan portfolios] at present to 10 percent," Lagua said in an interview.

With P1.9 trillion in assets as of August 2006, the additional 2 percentage points will translate to an additional P38.4 billion in loans to cash-hungry SMEs, at least in theory.

Lagua believes the funds will be especially useful to firms which are too big to be classified as microbusinesses but not large enough to be classified as "small" firms.

"Often, these companies have difficulty borrowing funds to their

DEE

CORONEL

requirements of between P150,000 and P1 million," he said. "These are the SMEs that will benefit from this [proposed amendment]."

Banks, however, are bristling at the thought of being forced to lend their depositors' money to borrowers, which they believe are too risky to deal with on a wholesale basis.

Been there, done that

According to the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), most of the country's largest financial institutions have already "over-complied" with the requirements of the 1991 law.

"If you look at our reports to the central bank, we're already lending [to SMEs] much more than what's required," BSP executive director Leonilo Coronel said.

Indeed, data from the BSP show that banks have consistently lent over 10 percent of their loans to SMEs since 1992 when the law came into full swing, peaking at 16.5 percent in 2002, before dropping to the 11-percent range in recent years.

Even when alternative forms of compliance, like deposits with the central bank, are stripped out, direct loans to SMEs by the banking system have not dipped below the 10-percent threshold since 1992.

"What's the point of asking for more?" Coronel asked.

The BAP official reasoned banks may have good reason for turning down loan applications of some SMEs, which the amendments are aimed at helping.

"We have to look at specific incidents," he said. "Some of them have very basic credit problems."

Coronel added that forcing banks to lend money to unsophisticated borrowers violates a basic principle of free market economics.

"The question in credit allocation is 'Will the money be repaid?'" he said pointing to the poorer repayment track record of some smaller firms.

The concept of state-directed credit programs has long been discredited around the world, with the Philippines having its own share of failures like the Agri-Agra Law—still in effect—which requires banks to lend 25 percent of their loans to agricultural and agrarian reform-oriented concerns.

Long-term solution

BAP's objections notwithstanding, SB Corp.'s point is valid, given the reality that many of the country's 800,000-plus small firms are often kept from achieving their potential by the lack of access to funding.

For PCCI's Dee, however, the solution may not necessarily come in the form of forcing banks to lend more money, but to teach SMEs how to borrow properly.

The organization has set up an SME support group which will help entrepreneurs navigate the difficult channels of business, especially in terms of funding.

"They have no technical expertise, no financial history and no collateral," Dee said of many SMEs. "We want to teach them how to get funding even under these circumstances."

Indeed, when it comes to earning a living—whether it's a corporation or an individual—teaching them how to fish, rather than being given fish, is the better long-term solution.

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Barako farmers ready to export after 20-yr absence

By Christine A. Gaylican

COFFEE FARMERS FROM AMADEO, CAVITE are getting ready to export organic Barako coffee beans after a nearly 20-year absence from the world market.

"We're giving the Barako another shot at the export market, and this time, our aim is to produce organic coffee, not just for the local market but also for the growing global market for organically-grown coffee beans," said Figaro CEO Pacita U. Juan in an interview.

Juan said there was growing demand for organic coffee in Europe, particularly Germany, as well as in the United States and Japan.

"I believe that we can do what is being done in East Africa, which is a poor region like the Philippines," said Juan.

She noted that East Africa was now among the world's biggest organic coffee producers, along with Mexico .

The production of Barako or the Philippine Liberica bean, which is known for its particularly strong taste, powerful body and distinctly pungent odor, is picking up pace.

About 10 years ago, it was on the brink of extinction as coffee farmers turned to other cash crops because of the drop in the world market price for coffee.

Coffee farmers were encouraged to go back to their farms with the rise in product prices and the intervention of nongovernment organizations and companies such as Figaro.

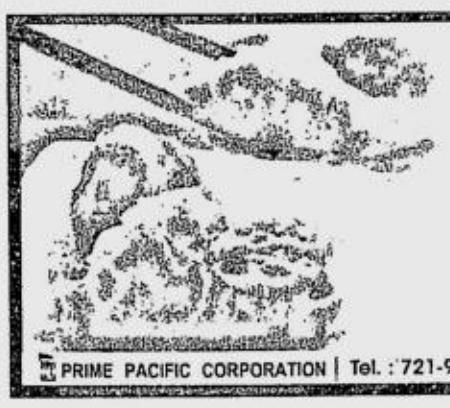
Juan said Figaro's medium-term plans included exporting organic Barako or Liberica coffee, which would be grown in Amadeo, Cavite.

The company also hoped to export organic Arabica coffee grown in Benguet, Kalinga and Ifugao.

She said the company was being assisted in this effort by the German Development Service, which helped in establishing an organic coffee quality control system with coffee farmers' cooperatives.

At the same time, Figaro has commissioned international organic certifying body, Naturland Verband of Germany, to monitor its pilot organic coffee farms and to make sure that farmers implement good agricultural practices before certifying the Barako and Arabica coffee as organic.

Naturland is accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture, the National Organic Program and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements.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Cebu Pacific loses Japan ... From page B1

cients to Pacific East Asia Cargo last month.

PAL applied for the remaining 4.5 and the regulator approved the application only last week.

Earlier this year, PAL and Cebu Pacific expressed interest in flying to Nagoya, Japan, citing market expectations of an uptick in demand.

Japan is the Philippines' second-biggest source of foreign arrivals, next to the United States. An estimated 300,000 Japanese fly to the Philippines each year, while some 170,000 overseas Filipino workers fly to Japan.

However, Cebu Pacific "voluntarily returned the seven coefficients to CAB," a CAB official said via text message.

Cebu Pacific president and CEO Lance Gokongwei confirmed to reporters that the budget carrier had given up its Japan entitlements, saying the airline had other priority destinations.

Potential labor dispute ... From page B1

pay of 2.5 months' salary for every year of service. While Mirant Philippines is already practicing this, there is no formal policy regarding this.

Mirant Philippines chair, president and chief executive Jose Leviste Jr. had earlier said that the severance pay practice would be formally included in the company's policies.

"We're going to put it as part of our company policy. It's just a practice, and our written policy does not reflect it. We're going to put this in writing and assure our employees of (that severance package)," he said in an earlier interview.

Company employees, however, said this promise had yet to be fulfilled, even as the sale of Mirant's Philippine assets drew near.

Mirant expects the sale to take place next month.

In their DOLE petitions, employees likewise accused the company's American parent of racial discrimination, citing a US Securities and Exchange Commission filing that said Mirant's US employees would be given fat bonuses in relation to the Philippine asset sale.

"It is very apparent that Filipino employees are being treated unfairly. In the US SEC filing on Oct. 5, Mirant Corp. in Atlanta announced the grant of $34 million to 125 US employees for the successful sale of the Philippine assets," the letter said. "Filipino employees who worked hard not only for the sale but also for making Mirant Philippines a very profitable company get nothing."

Issuing severance pays to all 1,200 Mirant Philippines employees will cost around $24 million, $10 million less than the promised sale bonus for Mirant's US employees.

The only Filipino employee included in the $34-million sale bonus, the letter noted, was Leviste.

The employees accused the local independent power producer's American parent of trying to pass on all obligations to the Philippine assets' possible new owners.

"As an example of this and a clear diminution of benefits for Mirant Philippines employees, Mirant refused to release our 13th month pay, which as a matter of practice, is released every October and its corresponding taxes absorbed by the company. Obviously, Mirant is waiting for the new owners to assume these obligations," the letter said.

Mirant announced in July that it would be selling its Philippine assets through an international auction. The sale was expected to fetch some $3 billion for the parent company.

Mirant's overseas divestment is also beyond RP jurisdiction, according to Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, saying that Philippine tax laws and any local agreement requiring consent will not be triggered in the global divestment of Mirant.

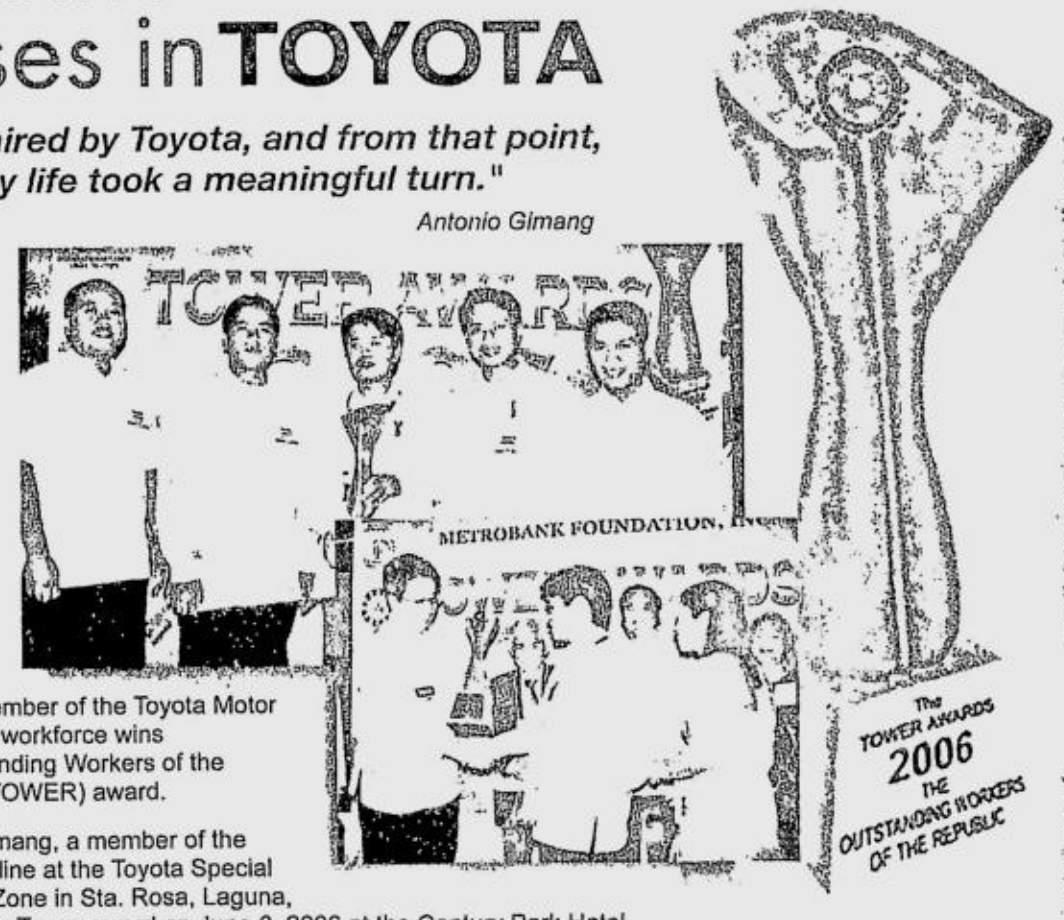
Based on the transcript of last week's joint congressional hearing released the other day, Enrile said since that Mirant was selling the shares of stocks of an overseas company that is beyond the jurisdiction of local laws, the planned divestment would not affect the structure of the corporations directly involved in Mirant's Sual and Pagbilao power plants.

Mirant officials informed the Joint Congressional Power Commission that the company was merely selling the same shares it bought in 1997 from Hopewell when it entered the Philippine power industry.

They added that when Mirant bought the overseas Hopewell shares, no local consents were required.

Another TOWER Rises in TOYOTA

"I was hired by Toyota, and from that point, my life took a meaningful turn."
Antonio Gimang



Another member of the Toyota Motor Philippines workforce wins The Outstanding Workers of the Republic (TOWER) award.

Antonio Gimang, a member of the production line at the Toyota Special Economic Zone in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, received the Tower award on June 8, 2006 at the Century Park Hotel.

The Rotary Club of Manila confers TOWER awards to the country's most outstanding non-supervisory blue-collar and white-collar workers.

This 6th recognition* of a Toyota Team Member is a validation of the exemplary, excellent, and exceptional values embraced by the company and its employees.

Guided by the philosophy of continuous improvement called Kaizen - one of Toyota's core work values - Gimang ensured quality of the product as well as the safety of the workplace in his 12 years of service at Toyota Motor Philippines.

"I was hired by Toyota, and from that point, my life took a meaningful turn. In return, I performed my work to the best of my abilities, accepting challenges and changes to meet targets with enjoyment and dedication," Gimang said.

Toyota Motor Philippines President Hiroshi Ito hailed Gimang for proving even more that Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation is, indeed, a company of great people.

* Toyota employees who have won TOWER awards as shown in photo:
Antonio Gimang, 2006 TOWER awardee (center) with past awardees (from L-R) Richard Gapasin (1999), Michael Dinulos (2005), Belcezar Dioquino, Jr. (2004), Ramil Dilute (2002), (not in photo) Amormio C. Feria (1997).

TOYOTA
moving forward

Metro Pacific to launch tender offer

Holding firm to swap common shares held by minority shareholders with new stock

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

METRO PACIFIC INVESTMENTS CORP., THE new debt-free holding firm that will replace Metro Pacific Corp. (MPC), will launch a buy-out offer this week for all minority shareholders of MPC, the unit of Hong Kong giant First Pacific Co. Ltd.

MPC corporate information officer David Nugent said Metro Pacific Investments will launch the tender offer on Oct. 27.

Last Friday, Metro Pacific Investments secured the Securities and Exchange Commission's approval to register 56.9 million common shares and 170.6 million warrants—or rights to buy common shares for a certain price within a specific period of time—with underlying 170.6 common shares to be issued in connection with its tender offer.

Metro Pacific Investments earlier got the green light from major MPC shareholders—Metro Pacific Holdings Inc., Metro Pacific Resources Inc., Intalink and First Pacific International Ltd.—to acquire 725.2 million common shares in MPC.

The shares will be acquired using a four-to-one share swap, or one Metro Pacific Investments share for every four MPC common shares, according to documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

In line with Philippine tender offer rules, Metro Pacific Investments will offer to swap the remaining 227.5 million common shares owned by minority shareholders of MPC with up to 56.9 million new Metro Pacific Investments shares on the same four-to-one share swap ratio.

To enhance the value of the offer to MPC minority shareholders, Metro Pacific Investments is also offering up to 170.6 million warrants—an exchange ratio of three warrants plus one offer share for every four MPC shares.

Metro Pacific Investments was founded as a corporate vehicle to acquire and accelerate the growth of MPC's former real estate development subsidiary Landco.

Metro Pacific Investments acquired 51 percent of the equity interest of MPC in Landco for P667.7 million. The holding firm also acquired outstanding receivables of MPC from Landco worth P138 million. It plans to use the proceeds from the receivables to subscribe to additional shares in Landco.

To support the expansion of Landco's businesses, Metro Pacific Investments will raise capital worth P2 billion through a private placement of its shares in Metro Pacific Holdings Inc. or Metro Pacific Resources Inc., and Ashmore Global Special Situations Fund 2 Limited or other funds managed by Ashmore Investment Management Ltd. The placement will be conducted after Metro Pacific Investments' tender offer.

The proceeds of the private placement will be used to increase Metro Pacific Investments' investment in Landco to 87.3 percent. After the private placement, Metro Pacific Investments is expected to have a capital of P3.1 billion.

GGcA Club Shares
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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	1,000,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,050,000
Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club	Please Call	
Baguio Country Club	500,000	
Canlubang Golf Club "A"	40,000	
Canlubang Golf Club "B"	50,000	-
Camp John Hay	-	250,000
Canlubang	500,000	400,000
Capitol Hills	45,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,800,000	1,400,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	90,000
Club Filipino	90,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	
Forest Hills "A"	100,000	-
Forest Hills "B"	180,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	190,000	120,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	190,000	-
Makati Sports Club "B"	220,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	13,000,000	11,500,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,500,000
Manila Polo	2,900,000	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	310,000	-
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	Please Call
Manila Yacht Club	300,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	230,000	160,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	600,000	550,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	160,000	150,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	190,000	160,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "C"	375,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	125,000
Spa & Lodge	580,000	480,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,400,000	1,150,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,140,000	1,800,000
Subic Bay Golf	200,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	650,000	600,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	600,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	200,000	180,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	6,300,000

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FREE PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE As of October 23, 2006

CLUB	SHARES AVAILABLE: SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,050,000/1,200,000*	1,000,000
Alta Vista B/Corp.*	-	Pls. Call/300,000*
Baguio Country Club	500,000	Pls. Call
Camp John Hay	Pls. Call	250,000
Canyon Woods	100,000	-
Capitol Hills	45,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	90,000
Club Filipino	100,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	280,000*/350,000**	Pls. Call*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	100,000/150,000*	Pls. Call*
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	300,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	12,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	11,600,000
Manila Polo	2,500,000	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	Pls. Call*	300,000
Makati Sports Club	200,000	170,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	280,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	150,000	-
Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3**	Pls. Call	Pls. Call/550,000**
Mt. Malarayat A	180,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	150,000/Pls. Call*/350,000**	160,000
Punta Fuego	400,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	Pls. Call
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*/250,000**	Pls. Call*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/150,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	2,100,000*	1,500,000*
Subic Golf	190,000	-
The Palms Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Country Club at Tagaytay Highlands	320,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	650,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	-
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club A/B*	150,000/160,000*	-
Valley Golf	220,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	6,200,000

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Analysts expect some correction in market trade

ANALYSTS HAVE A MIXED OUTLOOK FOR market trading this week, with some saying there may be some selling after the index touched fresh highs last week.

"Maybe a little, little correction is expected, but I'm still very bullish after the index broke out [from the former psychological level of 2,600 points last week]," said Joseph Roxas, president at Eagle Equities Inc. "The next target is 2,800."

In its weekly report, AB Capital Securities cited the triggers that could drive up sentiments. These include: a potential credit rating upgrade for the Philippines, given improving fiscal targets; the possible lowering of interest rates by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, given tame inflation numbers; good third quarter results due in early November, helped by forex gains from the peso appreciation; and, better gross domestic product numbers expected in the third quarter, given good exports and recovery in the agriculture sector.

ATR Kim Eng Securities said in presentation to the Philippine Stock Exchange that inflation will also fall further in 2007 with the full year impact of the expanded value-added tax (VAT). High oil prices however remain a risk factor. Inflation is expected to fall to 6.3 percent in 2006 from 7.6 percent last year, while GDP will grow to 5.7 percent this year from 5.1 percent in 2005, ATR Kim Eng said.

2TradeAsia.Com meanwhile said that outside of the country, market players will check for responses and reactions to the US Federal Reserve's upcoming meeting on Oct. 25, as well as formal minutes from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) ministers' meeting on crude production cuts.

"So far, there has been wide consensus for US monetary authorities to maintain the status quo on interest rates, despite recent improvement in housing data. If this expectation is sustained, ... local monetary authorities within the region may opt to maintain benchmark interest rates, supporting improved lending operations in high-margin consumer sector and assist in corporate capital expansion plans," 2TradeAsia.Com said.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Chowking's Indian foray takes shape

CHOWKING FOOD Corp., the country's second largest fast food chain, has entered the next stage in its planned expansion into India, Asia's fourth largest economy.

ChowKing president Rufino dela Rosa said in an interview that ChowKing has completed a study which showed that it is highly viable for the fast food firm to establish by next year a presence in India—a market that also prefers Chinese food.

"It's a good market because of the dense population, the standard of living and the preference for Chinese food," Dela Rosa said. "We have to be able to start by next year. The market opportunity is there."

He said that this year, a decision will be made whether Jollibee Foods Corp., Chowking's parent firm, or ChowKing itself will enter the Indian market.

Typically, it costs around $12 million to set up a ChowKing store overseas.

What has continued to attract the Jollibee group to India is the country's bustling economy, with brisk mall expansions and urban development. Last year, Jollibee dropped talks with New Delhi family restaurant Nirula's, but said it is still eyeing more acquisitions in India and China.

Aside from India, ChowKing is expanding into Indonesia, Dubai and the United States this year.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 20, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.1	6.8	6.1	6.5	524,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	41	41.5	41	41.5	5,241,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56.5	58.5	56.5	58.5	1,697,300
China Banking Corp.	680	680	670	675	3,150
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.41	0.44	0.4	0.43	34,000,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	67.5	68	67.5	67.5	32,800
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	55	60	48	55	1,300
Philippine National Bank	34	34.5	34	34.5	15,000
Phil. Savings Bank	42	46	42	46	3,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18	18	18	14,500
Security Bank Corp.	54.5	55	54.5	55	1,429,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.65	4.7	4.55	4.6	2,321,000
First Abacus Financial	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	70,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1595	1600	1595	1600	4,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	20,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	240	240	240	240	50,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2000	1985	2000	900
Ivantage Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	1,949,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp	52	52.5	52	52.5	114,600
First Phil Hldgs Corp	51.5	51.5	51	51	708,700
Manila Electric Co. A	28	28	26.5	27	281,200
Manila Electric Co. B	33	33	32	32.5	661,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1	2,800,000
Petron Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.05	6,535,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1.12	1	1.06	2,550,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	20,000
Cadp Group Corp.	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	12,000
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.25	22.25	22	22	67,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	40	41.5	39.5	41	2,602,500
Pancake House Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	80,000
Rfm Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.14	644,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	170,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.35	0.37	480,000
San Miguel Corp. A	66	66.5	65.5	66.5	103,800
San Miguel Corp. B	73.5	73.5	73.5	73.5	133,000
Universal Robina Corp.	19.75	19.75	19.25	19.25	1,129,300
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.43	13,160,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	2.7	2.95	2.7	2.8	7,009,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.04	2.04	557,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	3,101,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4.5	4.95	4.5	4.7	32,000
Republic Cement Corp.	2.2	2.24	2.16	2.16	333,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.7	4.75	4.55	4.65	1,783,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	10,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Active Alliance Inc.	2	2	2	2	20,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.73	0.74	0.71	0.71	73,120,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.17	0.175	28,160,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	18,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.42	0.47	0.42	0.44	400,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	89,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	11,000,000
Ayala Corp.	492.5	492.5	485	485	409,690
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.59	300,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	1,054,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc	0.032	0.033	0.031	0.031	70,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.48	2.5	160,000
Apc Group, Inc.	0.245	0.26	0.245	0.25	8,970,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	17,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.92	0.92	1,530,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.05	3.05	3	3.05	86,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	73,000
Benpres Holdings Corp	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	5,140,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	4.45	4.65	4.45	4.65	5,880,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.74	0.8	0.74	0.8	300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	759,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.66	1.88	1.66	1.84	9,513,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	7.6	8	7.6	7.9	3,003,000
Keppel Holdings	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	7,000
Medco Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,000,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	370,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	1.98	2.2	1.98	2.04	420,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.68	1.72	1.62	1.64	7,788,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.013	0.011	0.012	27,200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	1,470,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc	0.88	0.92	0.88	0.92	210,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.76	0.77	1,580,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,600,000
SM Investments Corp.	275	277.5	272.5	275	130,850
South China Resources Inc	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	100,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.44	1.5	1.44	1.5	202,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	3,060,000
Vivant Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	10,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.145	9,690,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.25	14.5	14	14.25	2,797,400
Belle Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.1	16,900,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.32	1.56	1.32	1.54	2,782,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.38	0.43	0.38	0.43	45,250,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.05	402,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	50,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.76	1.78	1.76	1.78	24,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. B	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	2,180,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc	0.2	0.25	0.2	0.2	1,080,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.57	17,390,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	1,050,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.065	0.0675	0.06	0.0625	13,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.7	31,415,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.13	0.14	330,000
Gotesco Land, Inc.B	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	330,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	18,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.35	7,830,000
City & Land Developers	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	30,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.82	0.84	1,430,000
Megaworld Corp.	2	2.08	2	2.06	75,565,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.35	229,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.34	1,500,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.165	0.195	0.16	0.195	20,120,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13.25	14.25	13.25	14	6,690,300
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	830,000
SM Development Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.82	90,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.5	8.7	8.5	8.7	10,818,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.59	0.62	0.59	0.61	530,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	500,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	19.5	19.75	19.5	19.5	100,200
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1	1	1	1	27,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.54	6,260,000
Globe Telecom Inc	1115	1115	1095	1095	56,090
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.8	4.85	4.8	4.8	2,411,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2280	2290	2275	2285	195,660
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.018	0.016	0.018	24,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.94	2.02	1.86	1.92	1,450,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	500,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.06	0.0575	0.06	3,700,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	10,800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.15	122,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	264,600
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	3,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	590,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	30	32	30	32	3,200
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.22	565,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	110,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.05	3.05	3	3	1,416,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.56	0.52	0.56	9,410,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	2.95	3	2.95	3	301,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2	2.04	2	2	132,000
Paxys Inc.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	744,800
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.22	1.28	1.22	1.28	64,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	7	7	6.9	6.9	1,296,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	6.9	7	6.9	7	642,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	166,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	269,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.8	51,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.245	0.25	0.24	0.25	12,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	18,950,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	66,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	64,700,000
Onico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	253,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.9	3.95	3.85	3.85	7,321,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	18.75	19	18.5	18.75	1,093,100
Vulcan Ind'l	0.69	0.69	0.67	0.68	580,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,150,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	206,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	70,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	107,000

CURRENCIES

October 22, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.792016	1.000000	50.0130
Japan	Yen	0.006702	0.008462	0.4232
United Kingdom	Pound	1.487328	1.877900	93.9194
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101704	0.128411	6.4222
Switzerland	Franc	0.629834	0.795229	39.7718
Canada	Dollar	0.702391	0.886839	44.3535
Singapore	Dollar	0.503603	0.635849	31.8007
Australia	Dollar	0.599967	0.757518	37.8857
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.101007	2.652731	132.6710
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211193	0.266652	13.3361
Brunei	Dollar	0.502007	0.633834	31.6999
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000110	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021234	0.026810	1.3408
UAE	Dirham	0.215644	0.272272	13.6171
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.262600	63.1464
Argentina	Peso	0.256316	0.323625	16.1855
Brazil	Real	0.371316	0.468823	23.4472
Denmark	Kroner	0.134156	0.169385	8.4715
India	Rupee	0.017488	0.022080	1.1043
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215632	0.272257	13.6164
Mexico	New Peso	0.073284	0.092528	4.6276
New Zealand	Dollar	0.526992	0.665380	33.2776
South Africa	Rand	0.105305	0.132958	6.6496
Korea	Won	0.000828	0.001045	0.0523
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023864	0.030131	1.5069

CDC plans to further develop Mimosa property

Bidding, negotiated sale among agency's options

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORP. WOULD take about two years to bring the process of privatizing the Mimosa property in Clark economic zone back on track after a competitive bidding failed for the second time last July.

Philip JB Panlilio, CDC executive vice president and chief operating officer, said in an interview that the managing agency of the former US air base wanted "to put things in order" first and prepare the Mimosa estate better for privatization.

Clark authorities had considered a third bidding as soon as the contract awarded to a South Korean group that won the May bidding held was revoked.

The contract, awarded on June 5 to NTM Jin Hung Joint Venture Corp., was withdrawn when then winning bidder failed to comply with the terms of reference, particularly the payment required to start the implementation of the lease agreement.

NTM Jin Hung's offer promised the government an initial revenue of P650 million on top of the yearly rental of $1.2 million.

NTM Jin Hung also promised to pour in additional investments of P1.42 billion to finish or improve on the property's villas, casinos, golf course and country club, water theme park, promenade and hotel.

Panlilio said a third bidding was just one of the many options that the CDC would consider when it was time to resume the property's privatization.

In a July interview, then CDC president Antonio R. Ng said the agency had two options under the law in the event of a failed second bidding—go into a third public bidding or enter into direct negotiations with at least three parties.

Further development of the leisure estate to be undertaken before privatization resumes will influence the way the process would be done, he added.

The first bidding was held in 2003 but it was declared a failure because not a single bid was submitted.

CDC took over the management of Mimosa in 1999 after operator Mondragon Leisure and Resort Corp. failed to pay lease rentals amounting to P464 million.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo congratulates Teodorico T. Haresco Jr., chair and CEO of Winace Holdings Philippines Inc., for winning the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Business Leadership Award. Haresco was cited for his success in entrepreneurship—starting in micro-financing, rising to national business leadership in the fields of infrastructure and technology. The award was given by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) during the 32nd Philippine Business Conference. LYN RILLON

The raging storm around 'Milenyo'

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

MILENYO WAS THE KIND OF TYphoon that wreaks havoc on Metro Manila every 25 years or so. Let us thank our lucky stars that Milenyo does not happen more often.

Because of the resulting damage, public utility firms such as Meralco and PLDT, not to mention my cable TV provider and the garbage collector in my neighborhood, have been pilloried for the slow pace of rehabilitation. There is still debris around my block.

The crews in the maintenance departments of even giant firms like Meralco and PLDT handle only day-to-day normal wear and tear. Surely, you cannot expect Meralco to keep on the payroll an extra emergency crew that will be needed only every 25 years. Also, when a typhoon like Milenyo hits, Meralco and PLDT cannot just recruit extra personnel from off the streets. Electrical and telephone linemen are skilled technicians who take a lot of time to train.

So, when a typhoon like Milenyo hits, every maintenance crewman works overtime. Even the garbage collector in my neighborhood has to schedule extra trips to haul away the debris. Meralco was able to light up my house only after I literally waylaid a crew passing by at about eight in the evening. The crew had been working the whole day.

Another thing to consider is that the distribution lines of Meralco and PLDT, or any other utility firm in any part of the country, are not strung up to stand 200-km winds. If they were, your light and phone bills would ruin your monthly budget.

Billboards are not also built to stand 200-km winds. Maybe they should. But it looks like most of the structures were undamaged. Until government standards are set, and a thorough—and sober—study should be made, I do not think the advertising industry should be blamed too much for the damage to billboards inflicted by Milenyo.

I remember a long time ago, it was suggested that the distribution lines should be built underground, as in New York City. The idea never flew because many parts of Metro Manila are below sea level. Also the tremendous expense would wind up in your light and phone bills.

On the other hand, Napocor's transmission lines that bring power to Metro Manila from the Ambuklao hydroelectric plant in the north and from the Tiwi geothermal plant in Bicol are built to stand the strongest typhoons recorded in the past 100 years. Notice that Milenyo did not topple a single transmission tower.

Napocor can easily get typhoon insurance on its transmission lines. But it is extremely difficult for even giant utility firms like Meralco or PLDT to get typhoon insurance on their extremely risky distribution lines. Sometimes, at the insistence of the creditor banks, insurance companies are forced to insure distribution lines. If they do, it will always be with a high deductible and at a very high premium rate.

The next time a terrible typhoon passes by, do what every Bicolano does—stay home.

RP broadband technology goes regional

By Riza T. Olchondra

LATITUDE BROADBAND INC., A LOCAL broadband equipment maker that built the network of Smart Communications Inc., has launched its Latitude AXS Pro Access Control and Management solution in Singapore to mark its entry into the international broadband market.

Latitude's AXS Pro enables carriers to convert the Fixed BWA technology into small-scale broadband network services for large-scale network implementation.

Fixed BWA allows service providers, especially in developing countries, to market affordable broadband services using fixed wireless networks at lower cost compared to that incurred when using other technologies.

Latitude said in a statement that the model was launched overseas following its success in the Philippine market, which now boasts of having the biggest broadband wireless deployment in the world.

"We have already identified key markets for our products and services, and have already established discussions with interested parties," Latitude senior vice president for sales Bong Paloma said.

"Latitude is now in advanced talks with industry players in emerging markets such as Indonesia, Bangladesh Malaysia, Sri Lanka, South America and even in some parts of the US where broadband access is a problem."

Established in early 2006, the people behind Latitude, led by its president and CEO Rene dos Remedios, are the same team who founded Meridian Telekoms, the BWA pioneer that was later acquired by Smart Communications in 2004.

Meridian built the present network in the Philippines that supports more than one million subscribers in 1,500 base stations, serving 384 towns and cities nationwide. Now with over 80,000 wireless broadband residential connections since launch last year, the Philippine experience clearly demonstrates the power of wireless as a solid platform to deliver broadband Internet services.

"Today, the clear choice to enable Fixed Broadband Services for emerging markets with limited copper facilities is Fixed BWA technology, Remedios said during the Broadband Wireless Week at the annual Wireless Broadband Week in Singapore on Oct. 3 and 4, when AXS Pro was launched.

"Even with the promise of mobile broadband wireless technologies like 3G/HSDPA, these solutions are still incapable of serving the requirement for fixed broadband DSL-like services today" Remedios said.

"We believe that the technologies we have developed in Latitude Broadband will prove crucial to other service providers being able to leapfrog the competition and immediately go to market with a proven and more cost-effective Broadband Wireless solution," said Ricky Peña, Latitude's marketing head.

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- Any person or organisation claiming to represent Zurich Financial Services or Zurich International Life for the purpose of transacting life assurance business in the Philippines has no authorisation to do so.
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ZURICH®

Prudentialife Integrate

Service with Stability and Security

Dedication to excellence

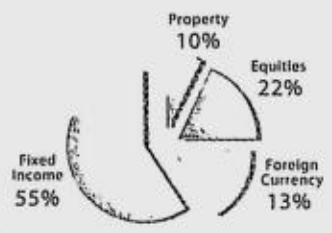
Prudentialife is a pre-need and financial services company committed to helping the Filipino family secure a worry-free future.

It began operations in 1978 when a group of visionary businessmen led by Ambassador Francisco A. Alba pooled their resources and expertise to put up Prudential Life Plan, Inc. Over the years, the company expanded its pre-need portfolio by offering Pension and Education Plans, and later on created affiliate companies in the areas of financial services, memorialization, travel and leisure, and healthcare services.

With excellent products, professional, hardworking and God-fearing officers and executives, plus its loyal and committed sales force, Prudentialife became an icon of service and stability in the pre-need and financial services industry. Prudentialife is now the country's top pre-need company as evidenced by the Securities and Exchange Commission's January to May 2006 pre-need industry ranking.

Prudentialife trust fund reaches P15 billion

To date, Prudentialife's trust fund has reached the P15 billion mark, compared to only P13.14 billion the year before.



With this, Prudentialife planholders and employees are assured that the company has enough funds to pay for its obligations.

Prudentialife has already disbursed over P7 billion in plan benefits for the last ten years.

Life plan redefined with Prudentialife Integra TFM

"To be more responsive to the changing times, Prudentialife has made it a business direction to pursue an integrated plan of life by focusing on what Prudentialife does best by launching Integra TFM and expanding to new products that ensure the financial and physical well-being of the Filipino family."

- Jose Alberto T. Alba
Prudentialife President

In keeping with its commitment to be of service to the Filipinos with the best memorialization for their loved ones, Prudentialife developed a far-reaching plan for integrated memorial services. This involves the organized linkage of the three businesses -- the Life Plan, Mortuaries and Memorial Parks.

To fulfill this vision, Prudentialife launched Integra TFM. It is the only life plan in the industry to provide integrated memorial services with comprehensive benefits, hence the brand Integra. The initials TFM stand for Traditional Plans, Flexi Plans and Memorial-related products, respectively.

Integra TFM is backed by the entire Prudentialife Memorial Services Group, composed of Prudentialife Life Plans, Inc., La Funeraria Paz, Inc., La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Inc., La Funeraria Paz-Baguio, St. Therese Chapels-Iloilo, Tarlac Memorial Park, Inc., and Iloilo Memorial Park, Inc.

Supported by the finest mortuaries

In order to deliver dignified memorial services to its planholders when and where it is needed, Prudentialife has a nationwide network of over 250 branch/area offices with Certified Servicing Mortuaries (CSMs).

One call does it all. From the initial call for service, Prudentialife's professional memorial service administrator takes care of all memorial-related services that the plan provides for. He sees to it that the planholder's family gets prompt, personal and professional services to free them from the additional burden of attending to the smallest funeral details in their moment of bereavement.

Your choice of life plans for your peace of mind

Prudentialife protects your family from worry at the time of need. It helps you prepare for a future that is comfortable and secure. Indeed, it's peace of mind you can count on.

Traditional Plans

Traditional Plans guarantee the administration of dignified memorial services when the need arises, regardless of future cost.

Traditional Plan Benefits:

- Easy and Affordable Terms
- A selection of plans to suit your needs
- Full Payment Guarantee
- Waiver of Installment Due to Disability
- Family Assistance Benefit
- Accidental Death and Dismemberment
- Dual Protection Benefit
- Money Back Benefit

With our nationwide coverage, you'll always get the service you want.

Flexi Plans

These are fixed value life plans that guarantee the availability of funds for the administration of professional memorial services at the time of need. With this, the planholder has full freedom in designing the memorial service that he or she sees fit.

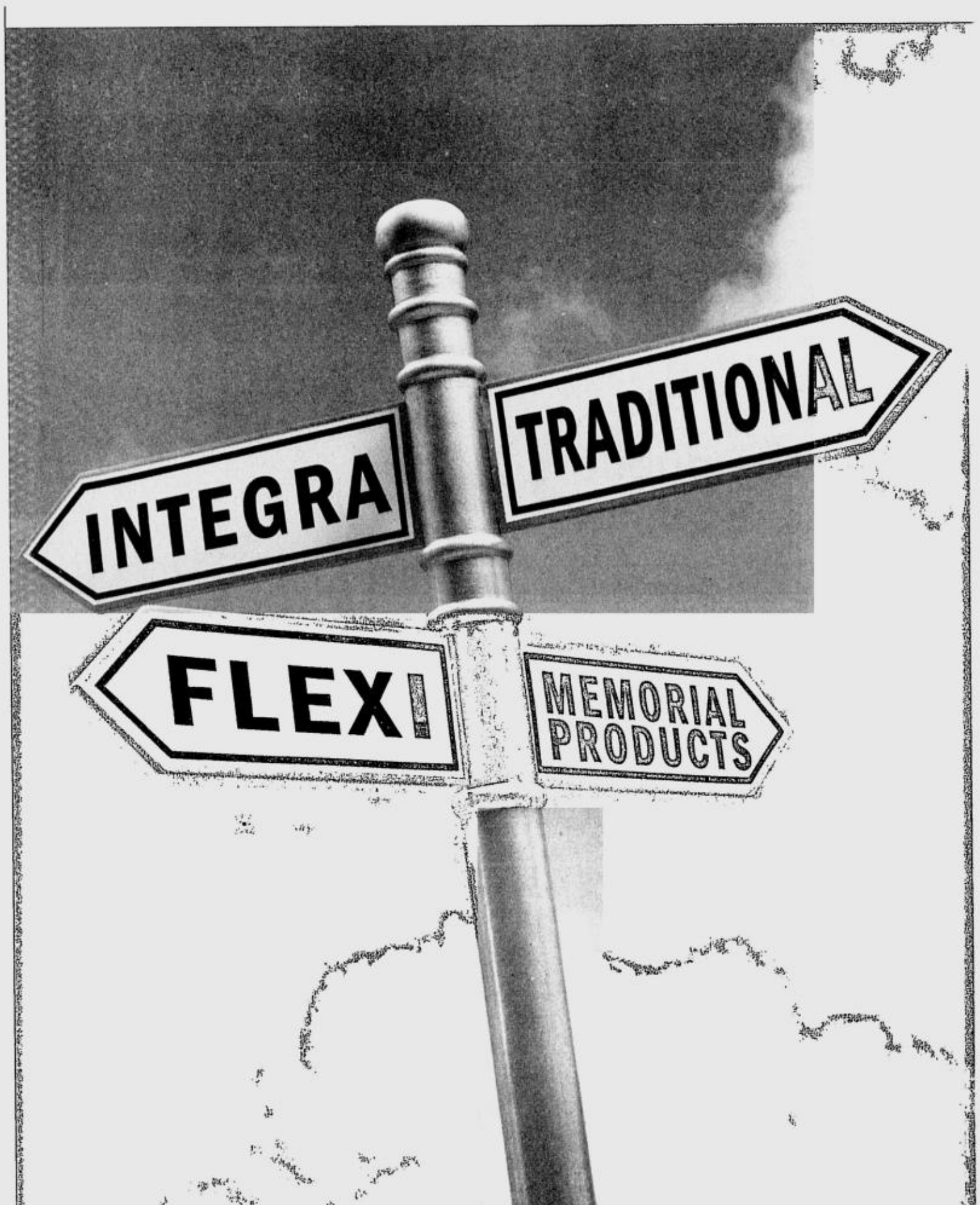
Flexi Plan Benefits:

- Easy and Affordable Terms
- A selection of plans to suit your needs
- Full Payment Guarantee
- Waiver of Installment Due to Disability
- Memorial Services Fund
- Family Assistance Benefit
- Accidental Death and Dismemberment
- Dual Protection Benefit
- Money Back Benefit

If you're looking for a life plan that provides flexible funds, here's one that is secure.

Cremation Plans

To keep up with the modern times and with the growing acceptance of cremation in the country, Prudentialife offers cremation plans that guarantee cremation services and the provision of pre-selected urns.



Life is about choices.

Prudentialife Integra
makes sure you get your way.

With Prudentialife Integra TFM,
you can choose exactly the kind of service you want.

Traditional Plans
These plans assure the administration of dignified memorial services regardless of future cost.

Flexi Plans
These plans guarantee the availability of funds for the professional administration of memorial services at the time of need.

Memorial-Related Products
You can even integrate memorial-related products like Cremation Plan and Memorial Park to your plan. You can buy these separately or as a package for a worry-free future.

Backed by 28 years of expertise and a trust fund of over P15 billion, you can be sure that Prudentialife will be there when you need it most.

Choose peace of mind. Invest on a Prudentialife Integra TFM now.

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Prudentialife Direct (632) 864-8000 PLPI TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-819-PLPI (7574); 0918-979-PLPI (7574)
Website: www.prudentialife.com; E-mail: helpdesk@prudentialife.com

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d Memorialization Plan

Honoring your loved ones with dignity

La Funeraria Paz
107 years of quality service

For 107 years now, La Funeraria Paz has provided the nation unmatched dignified and excellent memorial services that started with one small chapel at the corner of Calle Paz (now C.M. Recto) and Calle Almanza (now Tomas Mapua St.) in Manila where families and friends can pay their last respects to their departed loved ones.

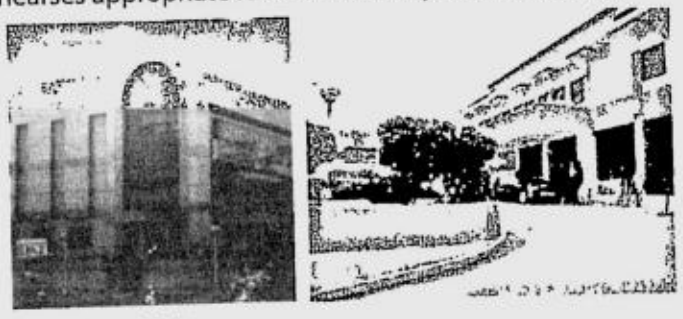
- Since its inception, La Funeraria Paz has had the honor of giving the finest commemoration to the Filipino people, especially men and women who shaped our history -- among them Melchora Aquino, Apolinario Mabini, and many others.

La Funeraria Paz - Araneta

Paz offers modern, first-rate amenities and facilities. It has 28 first-class memorial chapels, the largest of which can hold up to 600 people. Two superior chapels are newly renovated for the utmost homage to your loved ones.

These chapels feature main and individual family rooms which are fully air-conditioned to offer comfort and rest to the bereaved. A service balcony is provided with joss-stick burning trays for select clients.

Paz also has the largest fleet of Mercedes-Benz and Cadillac hearses appropriate for the solemnity of the occasion.



Crematory Units

La Funeraria Paz now offers crematory services, on-call 24 hours a day. The two crematorium units can process up to six cremations in eight hours.

La Funeraria Paz continues to fulfill Prudentialife's vision -- "to give the finest tribute to the memory of a loved one".

La Funeraria Paz - Sucat

Inaugurated in August 2002, La Funeraria Paz has been providing excellent memorial services to the residents of Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Makati, Manila, and nearby areas of Cavite, Laguna and Batangas.

This three-storey mortuary has state-of-the-art facilities with 24 well-appointed chapels and family rooms which are fully air-conditioned.

A guest elevator services all floors for greater convenience. A spacious Preparation Room is furnished with high-end mortuary equipment, including a six-body freezer.

La Funeraria Paz-Sucat is conveniently located amidst the lush gardens of Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

La Funeraria Paz - Baguio

The Baguio branch brings to the north La Funeraria Paz's long tradition of service excellence.

It has 7 well-appointed chapels that feature family rooms thoughtfully designed to give comfort to the bereaved.

La Funeraria Paz's commitment to provide excellent services through 107 years assures your departed loved ones the most respectful remembrance, befitting those who shall take the brightest road to eternal life.

St. Therese Chapels

Prudentialife is the first pre-need company to operate a mortuary in Western Visayas through the St. Therese Memorial Chapels (STMC).

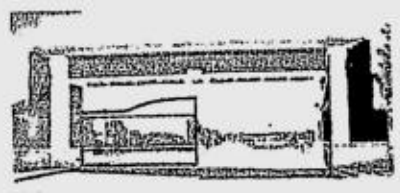
Located at Lopez Jaena St. in Molo, Iloilo City, the STMC has been providing families with the finest services and facilities through its seven newly renovated chapels with modern amenities.

Four of the seven chapels are air-conditioned and fitted with pull-out beds for additional guests, clean comfort rooms with sensor-type faucets and shower.

STMC boasts of a range of Mercedes-Benz hearses and support vehicles.

Garden of the Ascension

The Garden of the Ascension signals Prudentialife's entry into the memorial park business. The Garden of the Ascension in Tarlac City has rightfully claimed its stature as the biggest memorial park north of Manila.



In the south, Garden of the Ascension in Iloilo is proving to be another success story as its lots have been selling briskly.

Both Garden of the Ascension in Tarlac and Iloilo have magnificent gates that welcome you as you enter a place of tranquility with well-kept lawns, shade trees along wide avenues and well-lit walkways.

Garden of the Ascension offers a variety of choices ranging from Garden Lots, Memorial Courts, and Family Estates at affordable payment terms.

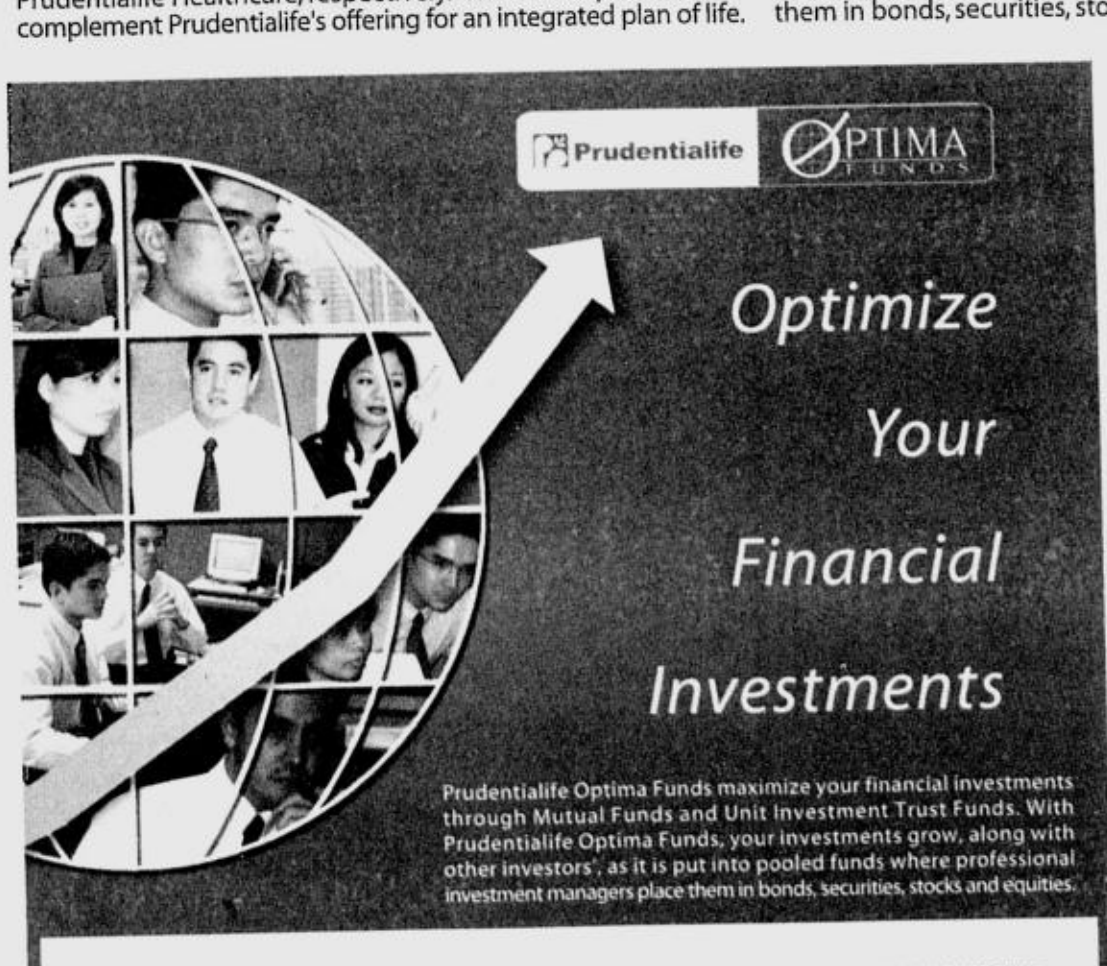
Offering integrated and innovative memorial park services, both Garden of the Ascension in Tarlac and Iloilo stand as testaments to Prudentialife's continuing commitment of providing excellent memorial services to the people.

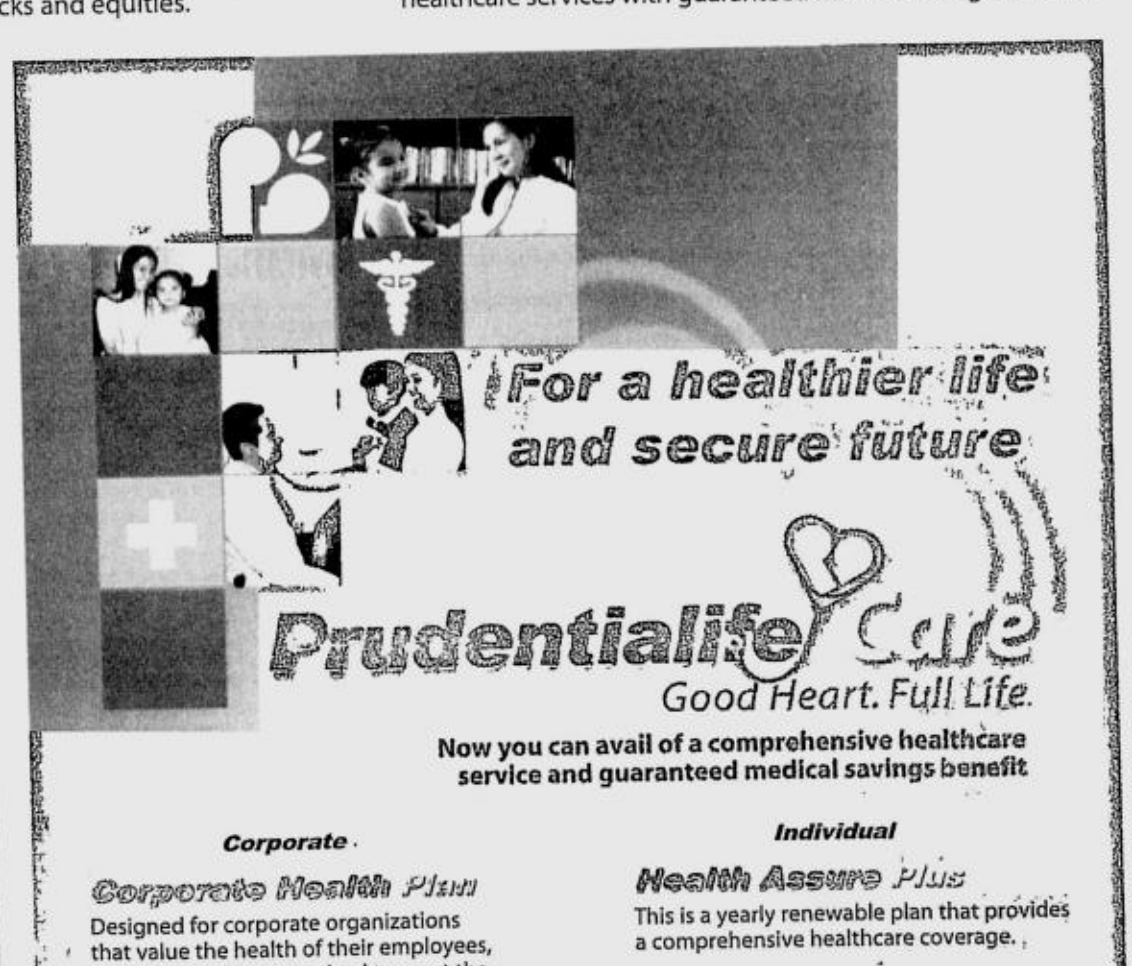
Ensuring the Filipinos' financial and physical well-being

True to its vision of helping Filipinos prepare for a worry-free future, Prudentialife has launched two new products that can help them live life to the fullest by being in top form financially and physically through Prudentialife Optima Funds and Prudentialife Healthcare, respectively. These new products complement Prudentialife's offering for an integrated plan of life.

With Optima Funds, Prudentialife takes its fund management expertise a step further in the area of financial services to better help the Filipino family secure the good life. It maximizes financial investments through mutual fund and unit investment trust funds. Professional investment managers expertly place them in bonds, securities, stocks and equities.

Prudentialife Healthcare was borne out of the company's recognition of every individual, family and community's need to be healthy. It also addresses corporations' desire to keep their workforce in good health amidst escalating medical costs. With Prudentialife Healthcare, you can now get quality healthcare services with guaranteed medical savings benefits.





tration Code and is criminally punishable. The public is encouraged to report immediately to the Securities and Exchange Commission any misrepresentation or false, inaccurate statement.

NO PLACEMENT FEE

EMPLOYER ARRIVING NEXT MONTH TO DO FINAL SELECTION

KING ABDULAZIZ UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Accre. No. 73771 #)

KAUH, a 600 beds Government Teaching Hospital affiliated with the Ministry of Higher Education of Saudi Arabia, NEEDS

• (150) NURSES (All Areas)

- EEG / ECG / ECHO / RADIOLOGY NURSES
- RESPIRATORY / PHYSICAL THERAPISTS
- MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONISTS

Benefits: 2 years contract, 45 days vacation for every 10 1/2 months free round trip ticket / free single accommodation.
- 3 years working experience.

- MIDWIVES
- CARDIAC CATH LAB. TECHS.
- X-RAY TECHS.
- PHARMACIST ASST. / TECHS. (F)
- CSSD TECHNOLOGISTS - Must be a Bachelor's degree from accredited School of Nursing. 3 yrs. clinical experience in Operating Room and 2 yrs. experience in central supply services or medical material management.
- CARDIAC TECHNICIANS
- VASCULAR TECHS.
- ECHO TECHNICIANS
- URO-DYNAMIC TECHS.
- PFT LAB. TECHNICIANS
- CAST TECHNICIANS
- ENDOSCOPY TECHS.
- OR TECHNICIANS

All above candidates must have 3 years experience in a 200 beds hospital.

- DIRECTOR OF NURSING - with 5 years experience, with Master Degree and/or American Board rated.
- DENTAL ASST. / HYGIENISTS / TECHS. - at least 3 yrs. exp.
- HOUSEKEEPING MANAGERS (F) - 3 yrs. experience in the field

On October 25-27 our representatives will be in POEA Regional Office and PESO in Cebu to conduct interview and testing.

CAREER PLANNERS SPECIALISTS INT'L. INC.
2/F David Building II, 561 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City, 1501 Philippines
Tel. 7238730 / 7184095 / 7248972 / 7257026 / 7230686 • Fax: 7239083
CP: *09178553448 / 09178553452*
E-mail address: recruit@pldtdsl.net; manpower@pldtdsl.net
Website:www.careerplanners.com.ph
Beware of Illegal Recruiters • Manpower Pooling Only • No Fees To Be Collected

POEA Lic. 409-LB-021104-R

CAGAYAN I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Maddarulug, Solana, Cagayan
Tel. Nos. 844-1595, 501-0062

INVITATION TO BID

The Cagayan 1 Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO 1), in compliance with the Guidelines of the Energy Regulatory Commission, invites sealed bids from eligible bidders to Construct and Commission a 10 MVA Substation at Sta. Barbara, Pial, Cagayan to include the following:

1. Site Development and Fencing in Sta. Barbara, Pial;
2. Relocation of one (1) unit 10MVA mobile power transformer from Solana to Pial;
3. Supply, delivery of materials and equipment and construction as per bid documents;
4. Construction of a Tender House at Pial;

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures. Interested bidders shall secure Bid Documents from:

PRE-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (PBAC)
CAGELCO 1 Main office
Maddarulug, Solana, Cagayan
Tel. Nos.: 078-8441595, 501-0062, 501-0882
Fax No. 078-844-4528
Email: cagelco1@yahoo.com / lcrr1523@yahoo.com

THE BIDDING SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Release of Intent to Respond Forms	October 25, 2006
Due Date for Intent to Respond and Bid Documents	October 30, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference	November 6, 2006
Opening of Sealed Bids	November 10, 2006
Awarding of Winning Bidder	November 20, 2006
Approved Budget	Php 14.4M
Cost of Bidding Documents	Php 25,000.00 (non-refundable)

CAGELCO 1 hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formalities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the Cooperative.

(Sgd.) NENITA B. GUZMAN
PBAC Chairman

(PDI – October 16 & 23, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
Municipality of Sta. Cruz

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date: October 23, 2006
Contract ID No.: SP-087-IN-01 to 03
World Bank Loan No.: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract for the *Construction of River Protection*. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*.
2. The *Municipality of Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur* invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the *Construction of River Protection* at the following sites:
   a. *Package 1 – Brgy. Besalan-Tampugo – 250 L.M. Gabion Revetment Wall, 4 units Gabion Spur Dikes and 700 L.M. rechanelling.*
   b. *Package 2 – Brgy. Villahermosa – 388 L.M. Gabion Revetment Wall, 5 units Gabion Spur Dikes and 637.5 L.M. rechanelling.*
   c. *Package 3 – Brgy. Las-ud-Pilar – 500 L.M. Gabion Revetment Wall and 637.5 L.M. rechanelling.*
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting *October 24, 2006 during office hours at BAC Secretariat, Mayor's Office, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur* upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Six Thousand Pesos (Php 6,000.00)* or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each package. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of *ninety (90) days* after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security for the following packages: *Package 1 –Three Hundred Eighty Thousand Pesos (Php 380,000.00), Package 2 – Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 350,000.00) and Package 3 – Three Hundred Eighty Thousand Pesos (Php 380,000.00)* in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the *BAC Secretariat, SB Session Hall, 2nd Floor, Municipal Bldg., Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur on or before December 12, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.* at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post qualification. The *Approved Budget Cost (ABC)* for the following packages are: *Package 1 – Php 15,203,541.00, Package 2 – Php 14,090,918.00* and or *Package 3 – Php 15,266,190.00.*
6. A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 A.M. on November 17, 2006 at the SB Session Hall, 2nd floor, Municipal Building, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur.

(Sgd.) Engr. Ligaya V. Josue
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 23, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL NEGROS
Bids and Awards Committee
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Provincial Government of Oriental Negros invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of a **Computerized Hospital Management Information System (CHMIS) for the Oriental Negros Provincial Hospital (ABC: P13,500,000.00)**

The list of eligibility requirements is now available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office (PGSO) Capitol Area, Dumaguete City, with Tel./Fax # (035) 422-8895.

The **Pre-Bid Conference** is scheduled on **November 3, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol, Dumaguete City while the **submission and opening of bids** is scheduled on **November 16, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at the PGSO, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial General Services Officer

(PDI – October 23 & 30, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
National Irrigation Administration
Zamboanga City, Region No. 9

Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDPII)
Construction of Dohinob Communal Irrigation Project
Loan 7152-PH.

October 23, 2006

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from The World Bank toward the cost of the Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDPII) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, to payments under the contract for Construction of Dohinob Communal Irrigation Project under Contract Number RIIRR 06-295-02 DVI-ZN.

The National Irrigation Administration, Region IX, Zamboanga City now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Construction of Dohinob Communal Irrigation Project located at Barangays Dohinob,Upper and Lower Irasan under Contract No. RIIRR 06-295-02 DVI-ZN and is expected to be completed and delivered within 270 Calendar Days from the date of the official start of the subproject.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Item No.	Description of Works	Quantity	Unit
I.	DIVERSION WORKS		
300	Diversion and Care of River (mech.)	1,170.00	Cu.M.
200	Clearing and Grubbing	800.00	Cu.M.
1700	3000 psi Reinforced Concrete	319.94	Cu.M.
1700	3000 psi Reinforced Concrete with Dwtng	38.77	Cu.M.
1700	3000 psi Plain Concrete	21.46	Cu.M
	50 mm x 6 m PVC	20.00	Pcs.
	100 mm x 6 m PVC	13.00	Pcs.
3500	50 mm x 6 m GI pipes	59.22	L.M..
1900	Rubble Masonry	202.72	Cu.M.
2700	Grouted Riprap	36.96	Cu.M.
2800	Gravel Blanket	175.56	Cu.M.
2900	Filter Drain	6.51	Cu.M.
600	Structure Excavation w/ Dwtng (mech.)	711.50	Cu.M.
600	Structure Excavation	1,268.33	Cu.M.
1220	Structure Backfill with Compaction	808.86	Cu.M.
3300	Purchased and Installation Of Sluice Gates	3	Assy.
3300	Purchased and Installation of Intake Gate	1	Assy.
II.	CANALIZATION		
400	Common Excavation	3,547.43	Cu.M.
1000	Side borrow with Compaction	21,612.28	Cu.M.
1700	2400 psi Plain Concrete	159.33	Cu.M.
III.	CANAL STRUCTURES		
1700	3000 psi Reiforced Concrete	191.56	Cu.M
1700	2400 psi Reinforced Concrete	202.50	Cu.M
2400	Fab. And Inst of 24" dia. RCP	181.00	Pc.
2400	Fab and Inst. Of 30" dia. RCP	70.00	Pc.
3400	Fab and Inst. Of 45° thk CHB	112.00	Sq. m.
600	Structure Excavation w/ Dwtng (manual)	59.22	Cu.M.
600	Structure Excavation	1,119.21	Cu.M.
1200	Structure Backfill (manual)	614.95	Cu.M.
600	Structure Excavation (mech.)	1,361.25	Cu.M.
1200	Structure Backfill (mech.)	1,061.78	Cu.M.
IV.	TERMINAL FACILITIES		
	Supplementary Turnouts	13	Units
V.	MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION	1	Pro.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Subject to exceptions stated in this Bidding Documents, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification. The Estimated Project Cost is Thirteen Million Three Hundred Six Thousand Pesos (Php 13,306,000.00).

The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Chairman NIA RO-9 BAC, at Gov. Ramos Ave., Zamboanga City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on October 23, 2006 to November 23, 2006 before 10:00 AM.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **PHP 10,000.00**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or **before 10:00 A.M. November 23, 2006.**

The NIA RO-9 BAC at Gov. Ramos Ave. Zamboanga City will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders **on November 6, 2006 at 10:00 A.M at the following address : NIA Regional Office, Zamboanga City.**

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before 10:00 A.M. November 23, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of ***CASH, MANAGER'S CHECK, CASHIER'S CHECK AND BANK GUARANTEE*** and in an amount of PHP 200,000.00 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **10:00A.M. November 23, 2006** at the Conference Room – NIA- Regional Office, Gov. Ramos Ave. Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at the **NIA, Regional Office, Gov. Ramos Ave. Zamboanga City.**

Minimum Equipment Required: Bulldozer (1 unit)-owned; Excavator 35 cap. (1 unit) owned;Payloader (1 unit)-owned; Loader (1 unit)-owned; Dumptruck 6.00 cu.m. (4 units)-owned; 1 bagger Concrete Mixer 4 units-owned; Concrete Vibrator (1 unit) owned; Water pumps 10" dia. (1 unit) owned/leased; Water Pumps 4" dia. (2-units) owned/leased; 1 set Survey Instrument -(leased/owned); 1 set Material Testing Apparatus (leased/owned). Generating set (1 unit). Other documents include valid PCAB license, valid and current Mayor' permit, BIR tax clearance and Dole Certification).

Completion of the Works is 270 Calendar Days from the official start of the subproject. The NIA-BAC of NIA, Regional Office, Zamboanga City reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Engr.CHITA O. LIM
BAC, Chairman
NIA,Gov. Ramos Ave. Zamboanga City
Telephone # 062-991-9961

(Sgd.) Engr. CHITA O. LIM
BAC Chairman, NIA RO-9

(PDI – October 23, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5279

PNOC

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

5 pcs. of Power Circuit Breaker under FGD61413
Approved Budget PHP 10,070,300.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Eloisa J. Hufana** starting **October 25, 2006**, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **November 3, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property and Materials Management Division at the above address, and thereafter, dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management's Office Wall Clock Time) of November 23, 2006.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI--Oct. 23, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that a warrant of arrest has been issued against **ANA LUISA CASTRO y LAYGO**, a.k.a. **PINKY** whose picture appears below, in connection with an Estafa Case docketed as Criminal Case No. 05-133357 entitled "People of the Philippines vs. Ana Luisa Castro y Laygo" currently pending before Branch 224 of the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City.

A reward awaits any individual who can give reliable information that would lead to the immediate arrest of the aforementioned person. Please call the law office of PELAEZ GREGORIO GREGORIO & LIM at tel. # 631-1531 to 35.

(PDI--Oct. 23, 2006)

Trans Co

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire along Gumaca-Labo 230 kV Transmission Line 2 (Phase II)

The proposed project is located in Quezon Province with an estimated length of 59.451 linear kilometers. The work contemplated to be done by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all materials (excluding Overhead Ground Wire), labors, superintendence, supplies, tools, and equipment and other incidentals necessary for the complete replacement of corroded overhead ground wire including line hardwares in accordance with the requirements of the Plans and Specifications.

[TRANS-06-ROHGWGLP2-EG-33]

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM***, through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *Four Million Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand Ninety Five & 46/100 (Php4,215,095.46)* being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire Along Gumaca-Labo 230 kV T/L 2 (Phase II)*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for *the refurbishment of corroded overhead ground wire along gumaca-labo 230 kV T/L 2 (Phase II)*. Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license*** with ***License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, Specialties"*** and ***Registration Particular of at least: "Small B-Electrical Works" (Power Transmission & Distribution)***, respectively, have completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid involving supply of materials (excluding overhead ground wire), labor, tools and equipment including superintendence for the rehabilitation/replacement/installation/construction of transmission lines rated 69 kV and above. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***November 08, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by ***90 working days.***

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***October 16-November 06, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php1,000.00.*** They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***November 08, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***November 08, 2006, 9:30 A. M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M.*** to ***5:00 P.M.*** on ***November 16-17, 2006.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee ***Php2,000.00***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***November 16-17, 2006, 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.***

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***November 22, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente Biñan, Laguna.

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***December 06, 2006, 9:30 A. M.*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R. A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date ***December 06, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), San Vicente Biñan, Laguna 4024
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera – BAC Chairman
(02) 981-4576 to78 local 4094; 4086; 4053

rgcastuera@transco.ph
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
www.transco.ph

(SGD.) RUBEN G. CASTUERA
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 14 & 23, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF BAIS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bais invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the hereunder requirements.

ITEM	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)
1) P.R. # 912-060 – various const. materials for Maint. of Brgy. Roads to be taken from 20% and General Fund	P 209,484.00
2) P.R. # 913-06 – various const. materials for Const. of Gender and Citizen's Crisis Center to be taken from the 20% Development Fund	1,146,969.00
3) P.R. # 917-06 – various const. materials for Concreting of Burgos Street to be taken from the 20% Development Fund.	3,285,262.00
4) P.R. # 967-06 – various const. materials for Water Supply System Development at various barangays to be taken from the 20% Development Fund	164,530.00
	P 4,806,245.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

In order to qualify, bidders should conform to the eligibility criteria as prescribed under Sec. 23.11 of the IRR-A of R.A. 9184.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. As such non-submission of the required documents will result in the disqualification of the bidder.

All other particulars relative to the procurement process shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Act.

Bid documents can be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee equivalent to the total amount of the ABC of the items in which interested bidders intend to bid, in accordance with the following rates:

Below P 50,000.00	0.5% but not less than P 100.00
P 50,000.00 but not more than P 100,000.00	0.45% but not less than P 250.00
P 100,001.00 but not more than P 200,000.00	0.4% but not less than P 450.00
P 200,001.00 - P 350,000.00	0.35% but not less than P 800.00
P 350,001.00 - P 500,000.00	0.3% but not less than P 1,225.00
P 500,001.00 - P 1,000,000.00	0.2% but not less than P 1,500.00
P 1,000,001.00 and above	0.1% but not less than P 2,000.00 and not more than P 10,000.00

Pre-bid conference will be conducted on October 26, 2006, 1:30 P.M. at the Office of the City Mayor.

Bid documents can be obtained at the BAC Secretariat c/o Office of the City Mayor or Office of the City General Services, this city, Tel. Nos. (035) 402-3182 or 402-8115, anytime during office hours; and can also be inquired for further information or particulars.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility, technical, and financial documents each in separate sealed envelopes duly marked as such in the bid box at the Conference Room at the Office of the City Mayor on November 6, 2006 at 1:30 P.M. at which place, date and time said envelopes shall be opened in the presence of the members of the BAC, the attending bidders, the observers, or their duly authorized representative. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The City Government of Bais reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) CARMELINO L. MORALES
(City General Services Officer)
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 18 & 23, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Tagaytay
OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER

NOTICE TO TAGAYTAY CITY TAXPAYERS

KINDLY SETTLE YOUR DELINQUENT TAXES AND TAXES DUE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2006 ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 30, 2006 TO AVOID INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AUCTION SALE

(Sgd.) NORBERTO A. SAN MATEO
City Treasurer

(PDI - October 23, 2006)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **ORIENTAL SYNERGY MINING CORP.** with office address at **139 Joy Street, Balingasa, Quezon City** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Producer of Chromite Lumps and Concentrates** on a **Non-Pioneer** Status with capacity of **70,000 WMT per year** with project/plant site located at **Dinagat Island, Surigao Del Norte**.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and
Registration Department

(PDI - Oct. 23, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **South China Resources, Inc.** (formerly South China Petroleum & Exploration, Inc.) has moved to a new address:

**3/F Low Rise Pacific Star Bldg.,
Sen Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave.,
Makati City**

We can be reached thru the following numbers:

**Tel. No.: (632) 892-2049
Telefax No.: (632) 812-2383**

(PDI - Oct. 23 to 27, Oct. 30 to 31, & Nov. 1 to 3, 2006)

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JOBMARKET COMPACT JOBMARKET

AGUSAN DEL NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Km. 21 JC Aquino Avenue, Butuan City
Tel. Nos. (085) 341-9034; (085) 341-7935; Fax No. (085) 342-6000

INVITATION TO BID

The Agusan del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ANECO) wishes to invite interested parties to Bid for the supply of the following:

		Agency Estimate
A.	Special equipments and commissioning of 10 MVA Substation	P 10,058,242.00
B.	Thermal Scanner – one (1) unit	1,000,000.00
C.	Computer software on load flow and short circuit analysis (SynerGee)	900,000.00
D.	Loadlogger – one (1) unit	800,000.00

Interested bidders are required to submit their letter of intent together with the latest copy of their company profile to the ANECO Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). Official bid forms for Item A will be made available to qualified bidders at a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00.

The pre-bid conference is scheduled on October 31, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the ANECO main office conference room. Opening of bid proposals will be conducted on the same venue on November 7, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. All participating bidders are required to submit a bid bond amounting to 5% of their total bid price in cash, manager's check or demand draft.

ANECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, wiave any minor defect in the proposal and accept the offer that will be evaluated to be the most advantageous to the cooperative.

(Sgd.) RODOLFO L. RANOCO
BAC Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) HORACIO T. SANTOS
General Manager

(PDI – October 23 & 24, 2006)

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines

6CB-GSC-142

PURCHASE OF GARBAGE BINS & BIN LIFTER
(Name of Project)
2 Items of Different Bins (pls. see also details @ www.gensantos.gov.ph)

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City, through the CY 2006 Annual Budget intends to apply the sum of **Five Million Eight Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Pesos (P5,872,960.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Purchase of Garbage Bins & Bin Lifter. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the Bid Opening.

The **Local Government Unit of General Santos City** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Purchase of Garbage Bins & Bin Lifter. Delivery of the GOODS is required by 45 calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsive of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Local Government Unit of General Santos City and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of P1,000.00 to the City Treasurer's Office. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative.

The Local Government of Unit of General Santos will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested on **October 27, 2006, 10:00 o'clock** in the morning at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of November 9, 2006.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to One Percent (1%) of ABC or Bank Guarantee equivalent to One and a half Percent (1 ½ %) of ABC or Surety Bond equivalent to Two and a half Percent (2 ½ %) of ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency Late Bids shall not be accepted

Bid opening shall be on **2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of November 9, 2006** at the **BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The **Local Government Unit of General Santos City** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee
Gina Y. Pigar
2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-0553, (083) 302-7210
Fax: (083) 301-0553
website address: www.gensantos.gov.ph

(Sgd.) NAEL JOSEPH D. CRUSPERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 16 & 23, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT EFFECTIVE 14 SEPTEMBER 2006, **MR. HERBERT KIMBLE**, AMERICAN NATIONAL HAD NO MORE OFFICIAL CONNECTION, LINK AND/OR BUSINESS ASSOCIATION/ RELATION WITH **HAVENLINK SOLUTION, INC.**, 12TH FLOOR, RAFFLES CORPORATE CENTER, ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY, METRO MANILA.

HAVENLINK SOLUTIONS, INC. RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTIONS AGAINST **MR. HERBERT KIMBLE** AND WHOSOEVER WOULD PRESENT THEIRSELVES PUBLICITY AS PURPORTEDLY HAVING BUSINESS RELATIONS/ CONNECTIONS WITH **HAVENLINK SOLUTIONS, INC.**

(PDI--Oct. 23, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
TONDO MEDICAL CENTER
Balut, Tondo, Manila

TMC BID & AWARD COMMITTEE

The Tondo Medical Center hereby invites sealed written bid for the procurement and delivery of Food stuff, Various Equipment, for the first semester cy 2007, Security & Janitorial Services for the cy 2007.

Interested applicants must submit pre-qualifications supporting documents, payment of non-refundable fee for Food stuff Php 500, Various Equipments Php 1,500, Janitonal Services Php 1,500 and Security Services Php 1,500, for complete list please get a copy from Supply Office, Balut, Tondo, Manila.

The schedule of Bidding activities are as follows:

	Issuance of Bids	Pre-Bid Conference	Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids	Source of Funds	ABC
Janitorial Services	Nov. 6, 2006 to Nov. 24, 2006	Nov. 27, 2006 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 18, 2006 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Dec. 18, 2006 10:30 a.m.		Php 4,833,720.36
Food stuff	Nov. 6, 2006 to Nov. 24 2006	Nov. 28, 2006 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 19, 2006 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Dec. 19, 2006 10:30 a.m.		Php 2,700,000.00
Security Services	Nov. 6, 2006 to Nov. 24, 2006	Nov. 29, 2006 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 20, 2006 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Dec. 20 2006 10:30 a.m.		Php 2,160,000.00
Various Equipment	Nov. 6, 2006 to Nov. 24, 2006	Dec. 1, 2006 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 21, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Dec. 21, 10:30 a.m.		Php 1,000,000.00

All particulars relatives to the eligibility process, bid bond, performance bond, pre-bid conference, bid evaluation an award of contract shall be governed by the implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9154, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

All activities shall be held at Tondo Medical Center, Conference Room, Balut, tondo, Manila unless announced otherwise.

For further details, please contact Secretariat Ms. Nora Castillo, Tondo Medical Center at Tel. Numbers 251-84-21 to 23 loc. 207 / 253-61-03.

TONDO MEDICAL CENTER BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY BID TO ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS REJECT ALL BIDS AT ANYTIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER/BIDDERS ON THE REASONS FOR DOING SO, TMC BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY BID FOR THE DEEMIT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) VICTOR J. DELA CRUZ, MD, CESO IV
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI – October 23 & 30, 2006)

**POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155**

OBITUARIES

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Our Dearly Beloved

Angelita S. Bolisay

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 21, 2006 at the age of 79.

Her bereaved husband Jose, children, grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz Inc., G. Araneta Ave., Q. C.

Interment will be on October 25, 2006 at the Heritage Park, Taguig after the 1:00 PM Mass.

Message of Thanks

To our dear friends who stood with us in our deepest hours of grief, we offer our gratitude and sincerest thanks. The family of

Ma. Luisa Gaerlan Orendain
11 October 1920 — 08 October 2006

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

DANIELA "NIEL" S. DEL ROSARIO

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband ***Ruben*** *on October 20, 2006 at the age of 84.*

Her children **Ruben Jr.** and **Milet, Judy** (†), **Susan** (†) and **Mike, Jimmy** (†) and **Lynn, Ruby** and **Dino Sr., Joy** and **Neil, Nonong** and family, **Naty** and **Tony**; grandchidren, great grandchildren, brother **Gabriel** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel One, Loyola Marikina.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 26, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

CEDRIC CAESAR "Judge" Agnir

went home to our Father in heaven on October 18, 2006

His loving parents **BUTCH** and **LISA**; brother **ALVIN KYLE**, family and friends thank all who loved him while he was with us.

His remains lie at the Church of the Risen Lord in UP Diliman.

Interment will be on Wednesday, 25th of October, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City. Details can be obtained from family members.

In Memory of Our Beloved

JOSE TEODORO NOBLEZA y LUTERO, M.D.

His loving children: **Ma. Paz Clarisse, Aimee Marie, Joseph Patrick** and his wife **Louella**.

Grandchildren: **Jose Hernan, Joel John Martin, Carl Herman, Jose Baltazar,** and **Patrick Joseph**. Brothers and sisters, nephews, nieces and other relatives and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2006, at 6:30 a.m. Cremation follows immediately after at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe at 9:00 a.m.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

Republic of the Philippines

ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

San Miguel Avenue; Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ANCILLARY SERVICES – COST RECOVERY MECHANISM (AS-CRM) OF THE ANCILLARY SERVICES PROCUREMENT PLAN (ASPP), WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2006-049 RC

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO), REPRESENTED BY ITS PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ALAN T. ORTIZ, Ph.D.,

Applicant.

x----------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on September 11, 2006, the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), represented by its President and Chief Executive Officer, Alan T. Ortiz, filed with the Commission, pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9136, an application for the approval of its Ancillary Services – Cost Recovery Mechanism (AS-CRM) of the Ancillary Services Procurement Plan (ASPP), with prayer for provisional authority.

In the said application, TransCo proposed, among others, the following mechanism and formulae in the implementation of its AS-CRM of the ASPP:

Ancillary Services – Cost Recovery Mechanism (AS-CRM)

1.0 Introduction

The Ancillary Services – Cost Recovery Mechanism (AS-CRM) completes the Ancillary Services Procurement Plan (ASPP, Order on ERC Case 2002-253 dated July 12, 2006) and is consistent with the Open Access Transmission Service (OATS) Rules.

1.1 Overview

There are three (3) modes for a customer to secure any or all of their ancillary services. First is through TransCo's Ancillary Services Procurement Agreement with qualified generation companies; second is through the market, subject to the methodologies approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) - the Market Rules (Section 3.3.3.5) allows trading and settlements of all types of Ancillary Services; and third is through the Alternative Ancillary Services Arrangement with another service provider.

For services arranged through TransCo, the OATS Rules (Section D7) and the ASPP and the AS-CRM will be applied.

In cases where customers opt to secure any or all of their ancillary services requirements through the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM), procurement and recovery of costs shall be independent of TransCo.

In cases where customers opt to secure any or all of their ancillary services requirements through an Alternative Ancillary Services Arrangement, procurement and recovery of costs shall be independent of TransCo provided that the arrangement is approved by TransCo. In such cases, Section D8 of the OATS Rules shall apply.

Effectively, the decision of where to secure the required Ancillary Services rests on the customer. Availing a particular ancillary service through TransCo will not in any way preclude the customers from availing the rest of their ancillary requirements through WESM or through an alternative ancillary service agreement.

1.2 Principles in the Design of the AS-CRM

The AS-CRM sets the rules on TransCo's recovery of ancillary services contracted and procured under the ASPP. The AS-CRM remains consistent with TransCo's mandate under Republic Act No. 9136 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001) and ERC-approved rules on open access transmission service.

The following are the general principles used in the formulation of the AS-CRM:

(a) Revenue Neutrality. The formula should be revenue neutral to both System Operator and Market Operator. There should be no under and over recovery of the cost of service and no profit margin will be allowed. That is, the charges should be complete passed-on from the user or beneficiary of the service to the service provider.

(b) "Causers Pay" Principle. The principle of "causers pay" should apply whenever practical. This means that if the necessity of a certain Ancillary Service can be attributed to a particular user or beneficiary, the cost of that service should be charged accordingly. Otherwise the cost should be allocated in proportion to the level of transaction in the grid. However, charging the cost of Ancillary Services, the "causers pay" principle based on Generator vs. Customer cost allocation may be immaterial considering that Generators will always impute all costs when they charge the Customers or bid into the WESM.

(c) When allocating cost for Ancillary Services, the timeframe for system averaging should be as close as practicable (i.e., coincident) to the time the services are being provided or made available to the system. For example, the cost allocation of reserve should be based on the hourly energy schedules instead of using monthly peak demands.

Ancillary Services that are allowed to be traded in the WESM will have cost recovery formulations for both the OATS and WESM regimes to provide a transition while the latter is still under development. Other types of services not covered by the WESM will adopt the rates and charges as stipulated in the OATS although this does not preclude TransCo from using the WESM formulae.

1.3 Definition of Terms

The terms used in this AS-CRM is consistent with Section A1 of the OATS Rules (Defined Terms and Interpretation).

1.4 Definition of Ancillary Services

The labels used to describe the ancillary services vary. TransCo, in its 2004 OATS Rules, follows the labels for different ancillary services used in the Grid Code. However, the WESM Rules differ in their labels or terms in some of the ancillary services.

In the interest of consistency and avoidance of confusion, the terms are reconciled with due consideration to relevant system requirements such that reliability and quality of service are not compromised. Table 1.1 below shows an equivalence matrix of the definition of each service.

Table 1.1 Definition Matrix for Ancillary Services

2004 OATS Rules	2006 OATS Rules	WESM Rules
Load Following and Frequency Regulation	Regulating Reserve	Regulating Reserve
Contingency Reserve Spinning Reserve	Contingency Reserve	Contingency Reserve
Contingency Reserve – Back-Up Power Supply	Dispatchable Reserve	Dispatchable Reserve
Black Start Service	Black-Start Capacity	(Not Traded in WESM)
Energy component and additional capacity of Back-Up Power Supply	Energy Imbalance	Ex-Post Price within Trading Interval
		Spot Energy Purchase beyond Trading Interval
Reactive Power Support	Reactive Power Support	(Not Traded in (WESM)
Customer Load Dropping	(Not Included in filing)	Interruptible Loads in Lieu of Reserve

2.0 Contracting of Ancillary Services

The decision of where to secure the required ancillary services rests on the customer. Customers can enter into a contract under the OATS Rules, participate in the WESM, and/or secure an alternative ancillary services agreement.

2.1 Contracting under the OATS Rules

All Ancillary Services procured outside of WESM shall be contracted by TransCo from qualified Generators and will be recovered through rates and charges from the Generation Customers, Embedded Generation Customers and Load Customers, where applicable.

Ancillary Service Charges shall be paid by Connected Transmission Customers and Embedded Generators, except to the extent that the obligation is relieved in part or in whole by an Alternative Ancillary Service Agreement.

2.2 Participating in the WESM

Ancillary Services which are to be traded in the WESM mostly deal with operating reserve requirements for system operations. In addition, the WESM Rules allows Customers to offer Interruptible Loads as Ancillary Service in lieu of operating reserves, a condition that was not considered in the OATS Rules. This is consistent with Section 3.3.3.5 of the Market Rules.

2.3 Alternative Ancillary Services Agreement

The Alternative Ancillary Services Arrangement must be approved by TransCo by virtue of Section D8 of the OATS Rules.

2.4 Procurement and Cost Recovery (OATS Rules vs. WESM)

AS-CRM is closely related to the manner by which they are procured or contracted. It is in the procurement methods of some Ancillary Services where the distinction between what are traded in the WESM and those procured outside of the WESM (the OATS and WESM regimes) is apparent as discussed in Section 4 of this ASPP.

Table 2.1 shows a comparison of OATS Rules and WESM mode of securing the required ancillary services.

Table 2.1 Ancillary Service Procurement and Cost Recovery

Ancillary Service Types	Procurement	
	WESM	OATS
Load Following and Frequency Regulation Regulating Reserve	Spot offers	Transition contracts
Spinning Reserve Contingency Reserve	Spot offers	Transition contracts
Back-Up Power Dispatchable Reserve	Spot offers	Transition contracts
Black Start Capacity	(Not traded)	Long-term contracts
Energy Imbalance Ex Ante and Ex Post Pricing	Spot offers	Back-Up Power (energy and additional capacity)
Reactive Power Support	(Not traded)	Long-term contracts
Customer Load Dropping Interruptible Loads	Spot offers	(Not included)

Table 2.2 shows cost recovery schemes applicable for each type of ancillary service. in the OATS and WESM regimes. The columns under cost recovery specify the method of allocating the procurement costs, which could either be imposed to a specific user (i.e., beneficiary of the service), or to all Transmission Customers. When the procurement cost is charged to all Transmission Customers, it is allocated through the use of billing determinant such as system demand or energy consumption. Effectively, this results into the system average rate for that service. The system averaging approach in cost recovery is adopted in both procurement methods under the OATS and WESM regimes. The only difference is mainly in the timeframe of cost allocation (or charging) as will be clarified in the succeeding sections.

Table 2.2 Ancillary Service Procurement and Cost Recovery

Ancillary Service Types	Cost Recovery	
	(WESM) User Specific	(OATS) System Average
Load Following and Frequency Regulation Regulating Reserve	None	All (capacity)
Spinning Reserve Contingency Reserve	None	Generator (capacity)
Back-Up Power Dispatchable Reserve	None	Generator (capacity)
Black Start Capacity	User (energy)	All (capacity)
Energy Imbalance Ex Ante and Ex Post Pricing	User (energy)	None
Reactive Power Support	Users (reactive energy)	All (capacity)
Customer Load Dropping Interruptible Loads	None	Generator (capacity)

3.0 Ancillary Services

Ancillary Service Charges shall be paid by Connected Transmission Customers and Embedded Generators, except to the extent that the obligation is relieved in part or in whole by an Alternative Ancillary Service Agreement or via WESM participation.

3.1 Billing Determinant

For the purposes of determining Ancillary Service Charges:

3.1.1 The Embedded Generator Billing Determinant for each embedded generating facility shall be the maximum scheduled dispatch in MW of that Generation Customer for the Billing Period for which the Ancillary Services were provided.

3.1.2 The Generator Billing Determinant for each Generation Customer shall be the maximum scheduled dispatch in MW of that Generation Customer for the Billing Period for which the Ancillary Services were provided.

3.1.3 The Load Billing Determinant for each Load Customer shall be the non-coincident peak demand in kW, measured in fifteen (15) minute intervals, of that Load Customer for the current Billing Period, for which the Ancillary Services were provided.

3.2 Charges

The following formulae on Ancillary Service Charges are taken from Annex VI-Module F of the Proposed Revised OATS Rules (2006 OATS Rules) which TransCo filed to the ERC on 07 July 2006 to the ERC under ERC Case No. 2006-015RC.

3.2.1 Regulating Reserve Service

(a) Regulating Reserve Service Charge (RRC). Prior to the Spot Market Commencement Date, Load Customers, Generation Customers and Embedded Generators shall pay RRC each billing period determined as follows:

RRC	=	RR Rate x ABD
Where:		
RR Rate	=	the Regulating Reserve Rate
ABD	=	Applicable Billing Determinant which shall be either: the Load Customer Billing Determinant; or the Generator Billing Determinant; or the Embedded Generator Billing Determinant.

(b) Regulating Reserve Rate (RR Rate). The RR Rate shall be determined as follows:

$$RR\ Rate = \frac{RR\ Costs}{\Sigma\ ABD}$$

Where:

RR Costs = Expected or contracted cost to the Transmission Provider/System operator for Regulating Reserve Services for the current Regulatory Year, plus any short-fall, or less any surplus, in aggregate RRC collected in the previous year compared to actual costs in that year, divided by 12.

Σ ABD = The sum of the Billing Determinants for all Transmission Customers including Embedded Generators

(c) Subsequent to the Spot Market Commencement Date, Transmission Customers shall pay for Regulation Reserves as determined by the WESM Rules, WESM manuals and the Ancillary Services Procurement Plan.

3.2.2 Contingency Reserve Service

(a) Contingency Reserve Service Charge (CRSC). Prior to the Spot Market Commencement Date, the CRSC payable by the Generation Customer and Embedded Generator in a Billing Period shall be determined as follows:

CRSC	=	CR Rate x GBD
Where:		
CR Rate	=	the Contingency Reserve Rate
GBD	=	Applicable Generator Billing Determinant which shall be either: the Generator Billing Determinant; or the Embedded Generator Billing Determinant

(b) Contingency Reserve Service Rate (CRSR). The CRSR shall be determined as follows:

$$CR\ Rate = \frac{CR\ Costs}{\Sigma\ GBD}$$

Where:

CR Costs = Expected or contracted cost to the Transmission Provider/System Operator for Contingency Reserve Services for the current Regulatory Year, plus any short-fall, or less any surplus, in aggregate CRSC collected in the previous year compared to actual SR Costs for that year, divided by 12.

Σ GBD = The sum of the Generator and Embedded Generator Billing Determinants for all Generation Customers, including Embedded Generators

(c) *Subsequent to the Spot Market Commencement Date, Transmission Customers shall pay for Contingency Reserves as determined by the WESM Rules, WESM manuals and the Ancillary Services Procurement Plan.*

3.2.3 Dispatchable Reserve (Cold Standby) Service

(a) *Dispatchable Reserve (Cold Standby) Service Charge (DRSC). Prior to the Spot Market Commencement Date, the DRSC payable by the Generation Customer and Embedded Generator in a Billing Period shall be determined as follows:*

DRSC	=	DR Rate x GBD
Where:		
DR Rate	=	the Dispatchable Reserve Rate (Cold Standby) Service Rate
GBD	=	Applicable Generator Billing Determinant which shall be either: the Generator Billing Determinant; or the Embedded Generator Billing Determinant

(b) *Dispatchable Reserve Service Rate (DRSR). The DRSR shall be determined as follows:*

$$DR\ Rate = \frac{DR\ Costs}{\Sigma\ GBD}$$

Where:

DR Costs = Expected or contracted cost to the Transmission Provider/System Operator for Dispatchable Reserve (Cold Standby) Services for the current Regulatory Year, plus any short-fall, or less any surplus, in aggregate DRSC collected in the previous year compared to actual DR Costs in that year, divided by 12.

Σ GBD = The sum of the Generator and Embedded Generator Billing Determinants for all Generation Customers, including Embedded Generators

(c) *Subsequent to the Spot Market Commencement Date, Transmission Customers shall pay for Dispatchable Reserves as determined by the WESM Rules, WESM manuals and the Ancillary Services Procurement Plan.*

3.2.4 Black Start Capacity Service

(a) *Black Start Service Charge (BSSC). The BSSC payable by the Load Customer, Generation Customer and Embedded Generator in a Billing Period shall be determined as follows:*

BSSC	=	BSS Rate x ABD
Where:		
BSS Rate	=	The Black Start Service Rate
ABD	=	Applicable Billing Determinant which shall be either: The Load Customer Billing Determinant; or the Generator Billing Determinant; or the Embedded Generator Billing Determinant

(b) *Black Start Service Rate (BSSR). The BSSR shall be determined as follows:*

$$BSS\ Rate = \frac{BSS\ Costs}{\Sigma\ ABD}$$

Where:

BSS Costs = Expected or contracted cost to the Transmission Provider/System operator for Black Start Services for the current Regulatory Year, plus any short-fall, or less any surplus, in aggregate BSSC collected in the previous year compared to the actual BSS Costs in that year, divided by 12.

Σ ABD = The sum of the Billing Determinants for all Transmission Customers, including Embedded Generators

3.2.5 Reactive Power Support Service Charge

(a) *Reactive Power Support Service Charge (RPSSC). The RPSSC payable by the Load Customer in a Billing Period shall be determined as follows:*

RSSC	=	RS Rate x LBD
Where:		
RS Rate	=	The Reactive Power Support Service Rate
LBD	=	Load Customer Billing Determinant

(b) *Reactive Power Support Service Rate (RPSSR). The RPSSR shall be determined as follows:*

$$RS\ Rate = \frac{RS\ Costs}{\Sigma\ LBD}$$

Where:

RS Costs = Expected or contracted cost to the Transmission Provider/System operator for Reactive Power Support Services for the current Regulatory Year, plus any short-fall, or less any surplus, in aggregate RSSC collected in the previous year compared to the actual RS Costs in that year, divided by 12.

Σ LBD = The sum of the Load Billing Determinants for all Load Customers

3.2.6 Energy Imbalance

(a) *Energy Imbalance Service Charges*

(i) *Imbalance Capacity Charge*

The rates and charges for Imbalance Capacity Charge are determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Charge}_{IC} = \text{Rate}_{\text{Capacity}} \times \sum_{d} \text{Imbalance}_i^d$$

Where:

Charge_{IC}	- *The Imbalance Capacity Charge in Peso payable by the Generation Facility of each Generation Customer and of each Embedded Generator in a Billing Period.*
$\text{Rate}_{\text{Capacity}}$	- *The Backup Reserve (Cold Standby) Service rate in Peso per kW.*
Imbalance_i^d	- *The Imbalance Capacity in kW for each Generation Facility of each Generation Customer and of each Embedded Generator "i", recorded in whole kW for each day "d" of the Billing Period. Imbalance Capacity is determined after subtracting the Credited Imbalance from the Maximum Under Generation for the day.* *Thus,* Imbalance_i^d = *Under Generation* $_{Max}$ – *Credited Imbalance.* *Where:* *Under Generation* $_{Max}$ = *Maximum difference between hourly schedule and actual generation for the day.* *Credited Imbalance* = *Under Generation* $_{Max}$ *if Under Generation* $_{Max}$ *is less than % level of AS* $_{LFFR\ and\ SR}$ *x Scheduled Demand* $_{Max}$ *for the Day* = *% level of AS* $_{LFFR\ and\ SR}$ *x Scheduled Demand* $_{Max}$ *for the Day if Under Generation* $_{Max}$ *is greater than % level of AS* $_{LFFR\ and\ SR}$ *x Scheduled Demand* $_{Max}$ *for the Day*

(ii) *Energy Imbalance Charge for Net Allowable Shortage*

The rates and charges for Energy Imbalance Charge for Net Allowable Shortage are determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Charge}_{EI} = \text{Rate}_{\text{Energy}} \times \sum_{d} \text{Imbalance}_i^d$$

Where:

Charge_{EI}	- *The Energy Imbalance Charge for Net Allowable Shortage in Peso payable by the Generation Facility of each Generation Customer and of each Embedded Generator in a Billing Period.*
$\text{Rate}_{\text{Energy}}$	- *Average energy rate of BUR Providers in Peso per kWh.*
Imbalance_i^d	- *The Energy Imbalance in kWh for each Generation Facility of each Generation Customer and of each Embedded Generator "i", recorded in whole kWh for each day "d" of the Billing Period.* *Energy Imbalance for Net Allowance Shortage is net generated amount after subtracting the Allowable Shortage from the Allowance Excess.* *Where:* *Allowable Shortage* = *Total Under Generation within the 1.5% of the limit* *Allowable Excess* = *Total Over Generation within 1.5% of the limit (Note: Over Generation above 1.5% limit is not credited.)* *Thus,* *If Allowable Excess < Allowable Shortage,* Imbalance_i^d = *Allowable Shortage – Allowable Excess* *Else,* $\text{Imbalance}_i^d = 0$

(iii) *Energy Imbalance Penalty Charge*

The rates and charges for Energy Imbalance Penalty Charge are determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Charge}_{EI} = \text{Rate}_{\text{Energy}} \times \text{PIE Factor} \times \sum_{d} \text{Imbalance}_i^d$$

Where:

Charge_{EI}	- *The Energy Imbalance Penalty Charge in Peso payable by the Generation Facility of each Generation Customer and of each Embedded Generator in a Billing Period.*
$\text{Rate}_{\text{Energy}}$	- *Average energy rate of BUR Providers in Peso per kWh*
PIE Factor	- *ERC-Approved Penalized Imbalance Energy Factor*
Imbalance_i^d	- *The Energy Imbalance Penalty in kWh for each Generation Facility of each Generation Customer and of each Embedded Generator "i", recorded in whole kWh for each day "d" of the Billing Period.* *Energy Imbalance Penalty is a generated amount that is 1.5% below the output Scheduled Generation.* *Energy Imbalance Penalty is determined after subtracting the Allowable Shortage from the Under Generation.* *Thus,* Imbalance_i^d = *Under Generation – Allowable Shortage*

Where:

3.3 Billing Process

The ERC Order[1] dated February 11, 2004 provides among others that "the Commission is inclined to allow industry participants considerable flexibility to determine the billing process that works best to implement the new billing determinant". The same ERC Order further states that "Customers can be assigned the responsibility for paying the TransCo charges related to the metered demand of Generators, and vice versa. To ensure a smooth implementation, TransCo is given the option to place responsibility for payment of charges on either Generator or the Load Customers who are parties to an existing purchase power agreement, regardless of the location of the metered demand".

Consistent thereto, TransCo adopts a principle, as far as practicable, to place the responsibility of paying the Ancillary Services provided to generators to all benefiting TransCo customers. Simply put, TransCo may recover the costs of Ancillary Services provided to generators from load customers.

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[1] ERC Case No. 2002-253 In the Matter of the Application for the Approval of the Proposed Rules, Terms and Conditions for Open Access Transmission Service (OATS) and Proposed Rates, Terms and Conditions of Ancillary Services

The ERC has set the application for initial hearing, pre-trial conference, and evidentiary hearing on the following dates:

AREA	DATE, TIME & VENUE	PARTICULARS
LUZON	1. **November 13, 2006** (Monday), at ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 A.M.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor Pacific Center Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. 2. **November 20, 2006** (Monday), at ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 A.M.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor Pacific Center Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.	1. Jurisdictional hearing and Pre-trial conference. 2. Evidentiary hearing (Reception of evidence and presentation of witnesses)
VISAYAS	**November 17, 2006** (Friday), at one-thirty in the afternoon (1:30 P.M.) at the ERC Visayas Field Office (VFO), Machay Building, Gorordo Avenue, Cebu City.	Evidentiary Hearing (Reception of evidence and presentation of witnesses)
MINDANAO	**November 28, 2006** (Tuesday) at ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 A.M.) at the ERC Mindanao Field Office (MFO), Mezzanine Floor Mintrade Building, Monteverde cor. Sales St., Davao City.	Evidentiary Hearing (Reception of evidence and presentation of witnesses)

All persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the proceeding may become a party by filing, at least five (5) days prior to the initial hearing and subject to the requirements in the ERC's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a verified petition with the Commission giving the docket number and title of the proceeding and stating: (1) the petitioner's name and address; (2) the nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding, and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and (3) a statement of the relief desired.

All other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter of the proceeding may file their opposition to the Application or comment thereon at any stage of the proceeding before the applicant concludes the presentation of its evidence. No particular form of opposition or comment is required, but the document, letter or writing should contain the name and address of such person and a concise statement of the opposition or comment and the grounds relied upon.

All such persons who may wish to have a copy of the application may request the applicant, prior to the date of the initial hearing, that they be furnished with a copy of the Application. The applicant is hereby directed to furnish all those making such request with copies of the application and its attachments, subject to reimbursement of reasonable photocopying costs. Likewise, any such person may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable Commissioners **RAUF A. TAN, MARIA TERESA A.R. CASTAÑEDA** and **JOSE C. REYES**, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 3rd day of October at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **FRANCIS SATURNINO C. JUAN**
Executive Director III

(PDI – October 23, 2006)

Nokia launches latest in mobile technology in Manila

NOKIA RECENTLY PLAYED HOST TO A regional launch held in the PICC forum to unveil the latest Nokia Nseries multimedia computer, the Nokia N95. Around 50 media from the Asia Pacific region flew in to attend the glitzy affair that promised a night of exploring one's passions.

The Nokia N95, an all-in-one multimedia computer with a pioneering dual slide concept, integrated GPS functionality, a 5-megapixel camera and support for high-speed mobile networks, makes it easier to watch and record videos, listen to songs, take high-quality photos, browse the Internet, or catch up on e-mail whenever you want.

"The Nokia N95 brings a range of multimedia features together, such as a fantastic display, outstanding photo and video capability, and high-speed connectivity making it an excellent multimedia computer," said Jose Luis Martinez, Nokia vice president for sales and channel management, multimedia business group, Asia Pacific. "This single device-which fits easily in your pocket-can replace devices that you no longer need to carry with you, like a music player, a digital camera, PDA, or navigation device. Most importantly, the Nokia N95 is with you and connected when you want to use it."

The Nokia N95 also includes integrated GPS and the Maps application with country, region and world maps that allow users to explore the world, find specific routes or locate services such as restaurants and hotels in more than 100 countries.

Nokia also unveiled music editions of three Nokia Nseries multimedia computers, the Nokia N70, Nokia N73 and Nokia N91 8GB. The Music Range combines sleek black design with a higher memory capacity for heightened mobile music experiences appealing to the music enthusiast in everyone.

The event, hosted by no other than Donita Rose, featured amazing musical performances by world-class violinist Jay Cayuca, Electronica Collective Manila, Nyco Maca, Tribo Manila, and Bing Austria of Juan Pablo Dream.

In full force were the Nokia Philippines team led by country general manager Parikshit Bhasin, Nokia corporate communications manager Luanne Erni, head of marketing Sandeep Khanna, and Nokia product manager Mike Smith. Also seen at the event were Mauro Montanaro, Nokia vice president for sales and customer and market operations, South East Asia Pacific, Ai Fong Wong, Nokia Apac head for communications, ABS CBN's Ernie Lopez, Thelma San Juan, and Raul Manzano, Manila Bulletin's Emil Yap III with Art Samaniego and Red Samar, Philippine Star's Isaac Belmonte, JR Isaac, Summit's Pauline Juan, Joanna Francisco, Ed Geronia and Vince Sales, and Tim Yap.

HOST Donita Rose flashes the Nokia N95

PRASANNA Raman, Chin Yean, Stanley Gan, Arthur Chen, and Nellie Ang Abdullah

NOKIA'S Loretta Lee with Jawahar Kanjilal, Nokia director for music, games and games business programs, Nokia Multimedia, Asia Pacific

NOKIA Apac head of communications Ai Fong Wong with Jose Luis Martinez, Nokia VP for sales and channel management, multimedia business group, Asia Pacific

MAXIM'S Steph de la Cruz and Vanni de Sequera with Tim Yap

NOKIA corporate communications manager Luanne Erni flanked by ABS-CBN's Ernie Lopez, Thelma San Juan, and Raul Manzano

SUN CELLULAR'S Howard Go and Nokia account manager for Sun Rudolph Santos

SHOWING off the Nokia 95 are Nokia Philippines country GM Parikshit Bhasin together with Mauro Montanaro, Nokia VP for sales and customer and market operations, South East Asia Pacific, and Jose Luis Martinez, Nokia VP for sales and channel management, multimedia business group, Asia Pacific.

SMART'S Dennis Gatuslao, Cherry Caluya, Jerome Almirante, Karen Pongos, and Lawrence Ferrer

Great perks and privileges from Globe Bida Kard

TELECOMS GIANT GLOBE INTRODUCES another life-enhancing service via Globe Bida Kard. Globe Bida Kard is a bonus and discount electronic card that, for the first time, allows all Globe and Touch Mobile (TM) subscribers to get special privileges in more than 700 partner stores nationwide.

"Globe Bida Kard is Globe's response to our subscribers' desire to optimize the value of their money. As our customers, we want them to benefit from the best deals that we can give them across a roster of the most consumer-friendly establishments in the country," said Gene Tamesis, Globe segment business head

Globe Bida Kard acts much like a regular discount card but sans the hassle of keeping a plastic card in the wallet. To enjoy price cuts and special privileges, Globe and TM subscribers simply have to flash their mobile phones in participating shops. These shops are easily recognized as they display the Globe Bida Kard sign.

Globe made it convenient for its subscribers to locate all establishments that honor Globe Bida Kard. With a few keypad presses, Globe and TM subscribers can easily access a complete list of Globe Bida Kard partner merchandisers for free. Aside from providing a complete lineup of participating establishments, Globe Bida Kard also informs subscribers of the perks that these merchants offer.

Participating shops are categorized into six groups: Fashion, for establishments offering bonuses and discounts on clothes and accessories; Food for restos, bars and food chains; Fun for fun and entertainment; Home for merchants catering to the whole family; Sports for athletic and wellness venues; and travel for a roundup of hotels and travel getaways.

Attuned to the needs of the people, Globe thoughtfully chose merchant partners across the country to make up its roster of partner shops. Thus, Globe and TM subscribers get maximum advantage from establishments that span GMA, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. For a full list of merchant partners, check out the Bida Kard website http://bidakard.globe.com.ph. With its expansive partner list, every subscriber's need is addressed.

Globe Bida Kard shows Globe's commitment to empower the Filipino consumer. By making the services of the country's top establishments more accessible to the people, Globe plays an important role in enhancing lives.

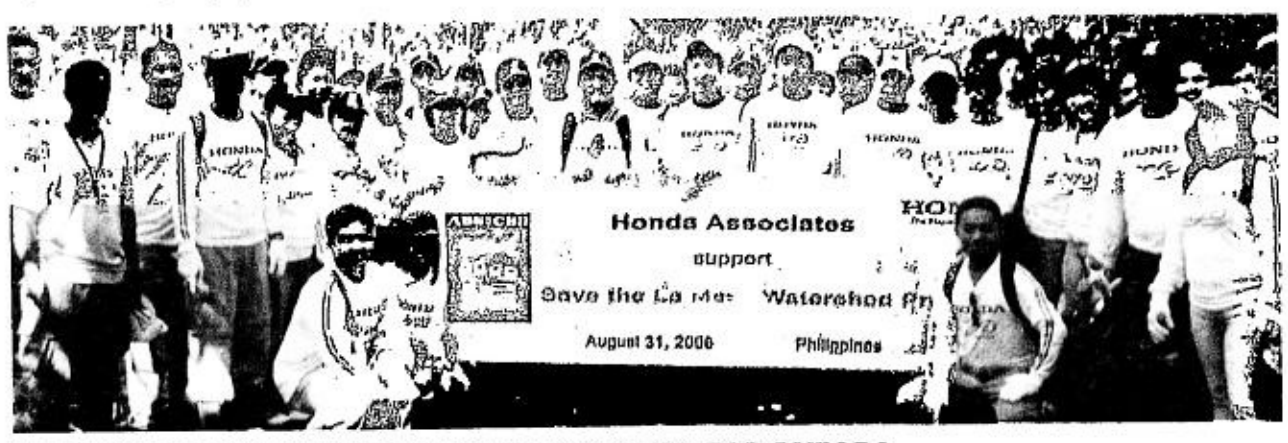
To take advantage of Globe Bida Kard's benefits, register for FREE by texting REG <first name>,<last name>, <birthday: in mmddyyyy format>,<gender: M or F> to 2888. Ex. REG Joy,Cruz,01231976,F. Then download the electronic Globe Bida Kard for free by sending BKARD to 2888. Just flash the electronic Bida Kard message from 2888 to participating merchant establishments.

FILMEX IS PRODUCTION HOUSE OF THE YEAR

Filmex was named 2005 Production House of the Year in the recent Agency of the Year Awards for 2005. The award cites Production Excellence in Film and Television. Shown beaming proudly are Filmex house directors, production managers and executive producers, from left (seated) Marjay Maghirang, Von Villareal, Raymond Red, (standing, from left) Torts Villacorta, Henry Frejas, Mila Tanteco, Concon Limbo-Deray, Jun Garra, Rachel Monteagudo and Ginny Vizcarra.

PNB, ALLIED BANK TO HOLD JOINT AUCTIONS

Officers of the Philippine National Bank and Allied Bank recently inked a memorandum of agreement that will enable the two financial institutions to hold joint public property auctions nationwide. The collaborative project will help the two banks realize synergistic benefits in working as sister companies of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies. Signing the MOA are (seated, from left) Allied Bank VP Emmanuel V. Plan II of special assets group; president Reynaldo A. Maclang; PNB president Omar Byron T. Mier and SVP Christian Jerome O. Dobles of asset management sector. Joining them are (standing, from left): special assets group marketing officers Maria Paz Carada and Rosella Garcia, SM Angela Barcelona and FVP Fabian Pagadian of Allied Bank's corporate affairs department; AVP Janette Abad Santos, SAM Yvette Go, SAM Joselito Dureza, FVP Alfred Bautista, FVP Rolando Delfino (partly hidden) and marketing assistant Melissa Parker of PNB. For more information, call the PNB asset management sector at 526-3131 to 80; 891-6040 to 70 local 2919 (Joey/Conci) and Allied Bank special assets group at 816-3311 (Nini Carada/Tatel Garcia). For broker accreditation details call AMS Marketing at 891-6040 local 2305/4052/4115 (Yvette/Mel) or through amsmarketing@pnb.com.ph.



WATCHING OUT FOR THE LA MESA WATERSHED FOR 5 YEARS

Honda strives in the areas of business and ecosystem, aside from manufacturing high-quality and environment-friendly products, Honda toils in safeguarding the environment. Once again, Honda Group of Companies teamed up with ABS-CBN Foundation Bantay Kalikasan for the rehabilitation of the La Mesa Watershed Aug. 31. Honda has been a catalyst in addressing environmental and social concerns and has continuously promoted environmental protection and preservation in both the global and local arena. Honda Group of Companies in the Philippines has been supporting ABS-CBN's Bantay Kalikasan since 2002. For five years, Honda officers and associates have been trudging to the watershed to plant seedlings in the "adopted" hectares. In fact, the company has already adopted 13 hectares of land at the La Mesa Watershed. Some of Honda's fruits of labor are the tall and healthy Cupang and Mahogany trees planted years ago. Takashi Sekiguchi, president of Honda Cars Philippines, Kazuhiko Izekoe, president of Honda Philippines Inc, and Yoshinori Yoshizawa, vice president of Honda Parts Manufacturing Corp, led the activity. Honda volunteers planted 800 seedlings in the 3-hectare land. Although physically tired and hot, they were happy and exhilarated at the end of the activity. The three executives pledged to hold the tree planting activity annually. Bantay Kalikasan's Adopt-a-Hectare Project aspires to reforest the depleted portions of La Mesa Watershed. With the support of groups and organizations, the goal to rebuild the shattered watershed lingers on.

Anvil Awards deadline set October 31

THE ANVIL AWARDS-TOUTED AS "the Oscars" of PR-was launched by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) Sept. 29, starting the search for the worthy winner of the most prestigious PR honor in the country.

Now in its 42nd year, the Anvil is regarded as the most coveted and most exalted award for public relations practice in the Philippines. It is awarded by a distinguished multisectoral jury to outstanding PR programs implemented in the previous year. Such is the prestige and honor of the Anvil that the Award is not given at all unless the high standards of the award are met.

All companies and PR practitioners are invited to join this highly esteemed contest. Grand Anvil winners include some of the country's foremost names such as Del Monte, Intel, Pfizer, Shell, Ayala Corp, Jollibee, San Miguel Corp, and the Manila North Tollways Corp.

Interested contenders have until Oct. 31 to submit their entries to the Anvil Awards committee, chaired this year by Butch Raquel, vice president for external of the PRSP, and head of corporate communications of GMA Network Inc.

The Anvil rules and necessary forms can be downloaded from the PRSP website (http://www.prsp.ph) or obtained from the Anvil secretariat at No. 20-B, San Mateo Street, Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City with telephone numbers 638-0010 or 638-0012.

ABS-CBN Foundation joins Worldbex for 6th World Bazaar Festival

SETTING THE TRADITION FOR THE COUNtry's grandest Christmas exposition, Worldbex Services International (WSI) teams up with ABS-CBN Foundation Inc as it prepares for the 6th World Bazaar Festival slated from Dec. 7 to 17 at the World Trade Center.

Showcasing the latest shopping trends with the most affordable prices, the 6th World Bazaar Festival promises to be an enjoyable day of fun and entertainment. Highlighting the festivities are fun-filled activities like the Night Market, International Village, Playland, TV Town, as well as fashion shows, musical shows for the shoppers' revelry. World Bazaar Festival will feature a special Barbie gallery as well, showcasing the very best of Barbie Collection.

Everyone will also get a chance to be with their favorite Kapamilya stars for photo sessions and autograph signing.

ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Kalikasan will be the beneficiary of the event.

For inquiries, call 531-6350 or 531-6374 and look for Armand Bernardino or e-mail info@worldbex.com.

Advocacy and enterprise in health and leisure travel

WHILE ON A BRIEF STOPOVER IN Copenhagen from Vienna in the summer of 2002, I had an interesting conversation with the Danish husband of my Filipina friend about the great potential of the Philippines as a major destination for Medical Tourism.

With unadulterated enthusiasm, he said, "Why not the Philippines? There are beautiful scenic spots, charming and friendly people with a good command of the English language, competent doctors, compassionate nurses and caregivers." Quite emphatically he added, "If Thailand can do it, so can the Philippines!"

It was truly inspiring to hear someone, a foreigner at that, have so much faith in my country. True enough, the Philippines has what it takes to get a hefty slice of the pie that medical tourism offers. It's time to polish up our act, transcend our tribalism and whet our competitive appetite to shine in the world in the field of cross border health and wellness.

Fortunately for me, my three former classmates, successful in their respective fields and a management consultant were in the same page, willing to take the challenge. We organized a health and leisure marketing outfit called Beautiphil Health Holidays Corp which was officially registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in March of 2005.

Hamstrung by lack of proper coordination, the fledgling industry lacked the wind beneath its wings that the business sector sorely needed to soar in this relatively new field. But, the private-public sector partnership was working diligently without much fanfare towards addressing this lag. The Arroyo Administration through Executive Order 372 paved the way to nurture the industry. The government's Medium Term Development Plan included the Philippine Medical Tourism Program. Medical Tourism figured prominently in President Macapagal-Arroyo's Ten-Point Agenda.

Finally, last January, the Department of Health in coordination with the Department of Tourism, Department of Foreign Affairs, other concerned government agencies and the stakeholders in the private sector presented a media launch to drum up awareness of the Medical Tourism Program. The aim was to offer cost-effective medical treatments combined with special itineraries that will showcase some of the best tourist attractions the country has to offer

50% cheaper

Research shows that prices of medical and surgical procedures here are 30 percent to 50 percent cheaper than in developed countries like the United States and United Kingdom.

Furthermore, we have an abundance of sun, sand, sea and smiles. The peso is firming up, investors are coming in and tax reforms are earnestly being implemented. On top of these, we are the only Christian country in Asia, and it is a plus factor that we have greater cultural affinity with the West.

The Department of Health and Department of Tourism have drawn up standards for accreditation of hospitals and health care units as truly world-class and ready to take in medical tourists. Hospitals are also seeking accreditation from major insurance companies and HMO providers so that their patients have the option to come to the Philippines for their surgical procedures. St, Luke's Medical Center, the Asian Hospital, the Medical City are just a few of the notable hospitals that have world-class facilities and excellent medical professionals to able cater to the expected influx.

Beautiphil Health Holidays Corp has come up with reasonably priced customized medical tour packages to entice tourists to come for executive check-up bundled with a golf game and a city tour, beauty holiday packages such as Botox injections, liposuction or breast augmentation where you can recuperate in a hotel or resort and have a spa pampering to boot; dental and eye care packages with a trip to the beach for some relaxation and cuisine delectation.

Seasoned and reputable medical syndicator RxPinoy-Infomediary Philippines Inc has collaborated with Beautiphil Health Holidays Corp and Honors Inc, a dynamic advertising, marketing, public relations and events organizer, in organizing the First Philippine Medical Tourism Congress, Expo and Grand Launch, with the endorsement of the DOH and DOT on Nov. 20 and 21 to be held at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Aptly titled "Only in the Philippines: Tender Loving HealthCare," the event will be the biggest and most prestigious gathering of local and foreign guests, sponsors, exhibitors and high ranking government officials thus far.

For more information on the 1st Philippine Medical Tourism Congress, Expo & Grand Launch, call 523-9731, 437-7090, 0918-9124509 or log on to www.philippinemedicaltourism.info. *(Dess Allanigue-Madsen)*

ZONTA CLUB OF MAKATI CHARITY BAZAAR

The Zonta Club of Makati & Environs Foundation will be holding its 15th Charity Bazaar on Nov. 19 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Parish Center. This all-day family affair brings together the best concessionaires in the country and from other Asian countries as well. The bazaar features 80 specialty booths. Members of the Zonta Club of Makati & Environs Foundation Inc aim to raise funds to finance their grassroots development program through skills and livelihood projects for women, pre-school for 110 underprivileged students, the club's free medical and dental clinic, and their anti-violence against women advocacy project. Shown is Zonta Club of Makati's dynamic 2006 bazaar committee composed of (front row, from left) Tessie Reyes, Lucy Florendo and Erlinda Ilagan, (standing, from left) Maritess Pineda, Zeny Mendoza, bazaar co-chair, Chona Lopez, club president and bazaar committee chair, and Monica Aveo. Other committee members are Tess Tumangan, Iva Anastacio, Mita Rufino, Cora Tan, Beng Puyat, Teresa Tan, and Maribelle Espino.

Vitarich boosts operations

VITARICH CORP, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S leading poultry integrators and animal feeds producers, continues to expand business operations nationwide to serve its markets better while in the process of corporate rehabilitation.

The company recently put up a parent stock breeding farm in Iloilo to further boost its growing poultry business in Western Visayas and to help support increased livestock activities in the region.

Meanwhile, the 56-year-old agri-based firm said it is beefing up operations for expansion of its animal feeds business across the country, and is further dedicating substantial resources for research and development to pave the continuous improvement in production process and product value enhancements of its animal feeds.

The company's research center located in Marilao, Bulacan is the first of its kind in the Philippines and was designed to provide local farmers with world-class yet affordable animal and aquaculture feeds.

"We shall continue to develop even better products and enhanced services and look forward to reaching our many farmers all over the country", said its chair and president Rogelio Sarmiento.

Aside from poultry supply and manufacture of animal and aquaculture feeds, the company has related business in animal nutrition and healthcare.

"We thank our customers and suppliers for their continued trust and support to the company and want them to know that Vitarich is fully committed to also grow their business in the countryside," Sarmiento added.

After overcoming a succession of adverse market conditions in the past 10 years related to disease and epidemics, Vitarich is bullish that as it regenerates its business and maximize earnings for the market expansion, the company shall be restored to financial health in 12 months.

The Regional Trial Court of Marilao, Bulacan recently granted Vitarich a debt reprieve finding its petition for rehabilitation as "sufficient in form and substance." Hearing of the petition is set for Nov. 8.

Fr. Corsie leads group tour to Asean

REV. FR. CORSIE LEGASPI, THE NOTed healing priest, is leading a group tour to several Asean places notably Singapore, Malaysia, Macau, Shenzhen and Hong Kong. This 9-day tour from Oct. 26 to Nov. 3 is intended for those unable to go with him to Europe. Fr. Corsie will say mass and conduct healing sessions in hotels for lack of churches in those places. For more details and information, call Salve at 0917-4110154.

CDO KARNE NORTE RAFFLE PROMO DRAW

Joel Ubalde (center), a representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs, reads out the lucky winners of the first monthly draw of 'Amoy CDO Karne Norte, Amoy Milyonaryo!' raffle promo at the recent draw held in Valenzuela City. Assisting him were CDO senior marketing manager Jonathan Bendicion and CDO brand manager Sharon Punzalan. The nationwide promotional activity is giving away more than P1 million in cash prizes. The grand raffle draw is set Dec. 12.

Three is good company with Sun Cellular's 'Triple Treats'

WE'VE ALL HEARD ABOUT "THE POWER OF Two." But have you heard about the amazing power of three? Sun Cellular, the network that commits itself to giving its subscribers unbeatable choices, is at it again with another offer that will astound even the likes of Moe, Larry and Curly.

Sun Cellular's "Triple Treats" is the newest service that will bring greater value by giving more discounts to you and two of your friends as you load up on your Sun-powered phones. Form a group of three with your barkada and get 10-percent instant discounts on load. And if you reach a total of P750 worth of combined reload within 30 days, your group will automatically enjoy a bigger discount of 20 percent on all Sun Unlimited products and Sulit Calls for purchases via SMS the following month!

To join via SMS, type REG<space>First Name/Last Name/Address and send to 333. Sun will send your "Group Name" which you will send to your barkada and other potential members. In order for the second and third barkada member to join the Group, key in JOIN<space>Group Name/First Name/Last Name/Address and send to 333. You may also join through the Sun Prepaid Menu. Simply dial *230# and press Send to view the menu wherein you should select 5.Loyalty points > 2.Registration> 1.Create group > and then key in First Name/Last Name/Address. Sun will send your Group Name, which you should send to your friends.

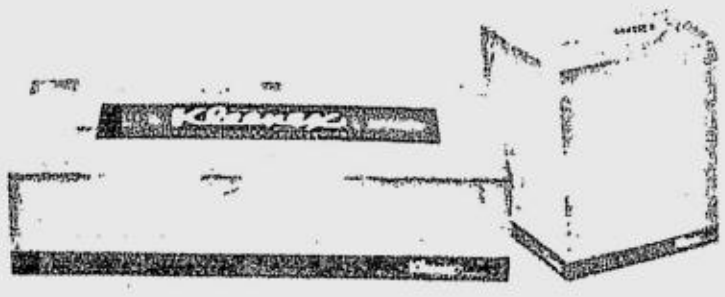
Upon completion of your group, you and your barkada will instantly enjoy 10-percent discount on Sun Unlimited and Sulit Calls purchase via SMS using your Sun regular load. And as soon as your group accumulates P750 worth of combined load within 30 days (excluded from counting are the services acquired via SMS, Convert-a-Load, Give-a-Load and Periodic Monthly Deposits), your barkada will enjoy 20 percent discount.

So whether you're the stooges or the angels, sign up for Sun "Triple Treats" now. Enjoy amazing savings and all the perks from Sun Cellular, the country's leading provider of best-value telecommunication services.

For more inquiries, visit the nearest Sun shop within your area or call Sun's hotline at 395-8000, or log on to www.suncellular.com.ph for more details.

KLEENEX LAUNCHES NEW BOX DESIGN

Kimberly-Clark Professional has introduced an elegant new design for its Kleenex Facial Tissue box for away-from-home markets throughout the world. The new platinum swirl design is featured on Kleenex Flat and Cube tissue boxes. The graphics were also designed to better coordinate with current washroom and office decors. Kimberly-Clark Professional previously offered more than 29 different graphic designs in 118 countries. The last package redesign was done in 1999. Kimberly-Clark Professional is a division of Kimberly Clark Philippines Inc and is located at The Enterprise Center, Makati City. Log on to www.kcprofessional.com/ph.



Phinma's CSR efforts to develop future leaders

ON THE HEELS OF THE SUCCESSFUL 5TH Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility (AFCSR) recently held here in the Philippines, there is once more a heightened awareness on the role of companies in the society.

Forum chair Ramon R. del Rosario Jr during the event stressed businesses' wider responsibility to address social concerns, as well as the need to incorporate corporate social responsibility (CSR) into the core of their business.

As Phinma president and chief executive officer, Del Rosario cited as an example the leading local conglomerate's increasing investments in affordable, quality education for Filipinos as the group seeks to demonstrate its continued commitment to education and to producing globally competitive young Filipinos. Del Rosario reveals that the Phinma education network is eyeing to acquire three more schools by 2008 to complete its five-university system goal.

Furthermore, in line with its thrusts in education, Phinma is also implementing the Phinma National Scholarship (PNS) Program which follows in the tradition of the Fulbright and Rhodes Scholarships in the United States. Through these scholarships, Phinma is able to provide opportunities to the least privileged but capable youth of the country.

With the goal to expand the program in the near future to cover a greater number of students, 10 qualified beneficiaries have been accepted into the scholarship for Academic Year 2006-2007.

Another "Life Can Be Better" initiative of the Phinma Group, the Phinma National Scholarship program aims to develop the future leaders of our country. Setting it apart from other scholarships, the Phinma National Scholarship provides out-of-classroom supplemental activities such as study tours, leadership conferences, outreach programs, and Big Brother/Big Sister programs.

Hernan Barce, one of the well-selected scholars of the University of the Philippines-Diliman, Quezon City campus, dreams of teaching at the UP College of Engineering someday and joining the industry. "I really appreciate not only Phinma's financial assistance but also its leadership program that aids Phinma scholars like me in getting to know the corporate world," he shares.

For now, one thing is for sure, Phinma has given him a shot at a brighter future. And that is indeed one good showcase of how companies' CSR programs can be instrumental in transforming a better society for all Filipinos.

Franchise exposition's keys to convenience store success

THERE ARE FOUR CRUCIAL REASONS that drive customers to convenience stores: accessible location, customer-friendly environment, complete and well-priced offerings, and return-visit motivation.

These key factors were the hot topics at the recent Ministop Franchising Exhibit 2006 themed "Raising the Bar: Aim High! Go Beyond!" held at the Grand Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Galleria.

As the world becomes increasingly high-tech and sophisticated, customers become more demanding and particular. Embracing the Japanese principle of kaizen or continuous improvement, Ministop believes that businesses must constantly upgrade products and services to keep up with market needs and wants. "We are able to find inspiration beyond our own industry," says Bobby Go, business unit head for Ministop Convenience Stores. "There are best practices to be found everywhere, whether in retail, manufacturing, or even in the service sector," he explains. Ministop has leveraged its success on innovative offerings. Through its fastfood product line, Ministop provides customers with affordable ready-to-eat meals and snacks (such as the best-selling chicken meals and the Ministop original kariman), as well as microwaveable dishes.

During the exhibit, Ministop unveiled six new fastfood products: Rice Toppings in Pinoy Bistek, Pork Sisig, Beef Caldereta, Chicken Teriyaki and Bopis; Pork Tonkatsu with rice; Belgian Cone Sundae; Belgian White Chocolate Sundae; Potato Fries; and Taco Hotdog with salsa dip. New combo meals and merienda packages will also be launched very soon. In addition, innovations through in-store promotions, supported by aggressive advertising campaigns, create a sense of excitement, giving customers more reason to frequent Ministop.

Bigger sales

Coming up with something new in other business areas can also mean potentially bigger sales. Aside from new products, business partners can expect greater business enhancements with the launch of the Yellowtail Program, new POS software, product display patterns, new crew uniform, and lineup of accredited accounting firms. Ministop also continues to develop its equipment repair and maintenance systems, as well as stock delivery services across all stores.

Service is king. Ministop business is about giving the best not only to its business partners, but also to its customers, with the thrust of providing them with total convenience. Ministop now offers new services such as mobile phone prepaid loading, mobile phone battery-charging docks, and flower delivery services. At the event, Ministop also announced upcoming services such as in-store broadband Internet facilities and bills payment counters, thereby making Ministop a one-stop destination for almost everything.

What makes the Ministop business stand out from competitors is its commitment to serve its partners through solid marketing support, training opportunities, and learning events such as the Franchising Exhibit. "We like to serve our business partners better, so they in turn can be of service to customers better," says Go. Ministop's attractive business packages for aspiring local entrepreneurs have resulted in an unstoppable growth, while in the process, ensuring the company's involvement in economic growth. Go adds, "If the economy is to improve, we have to help by introducing business innovations in terms of the retail model, products and service, and providing jobs through increased entrepreneurial opportunities."

Ministop began its Philippine operations only six years ago. Through innovative thinking and a customer-focused vision, it has made its mark as a sound business investment and a success story worth emulating.

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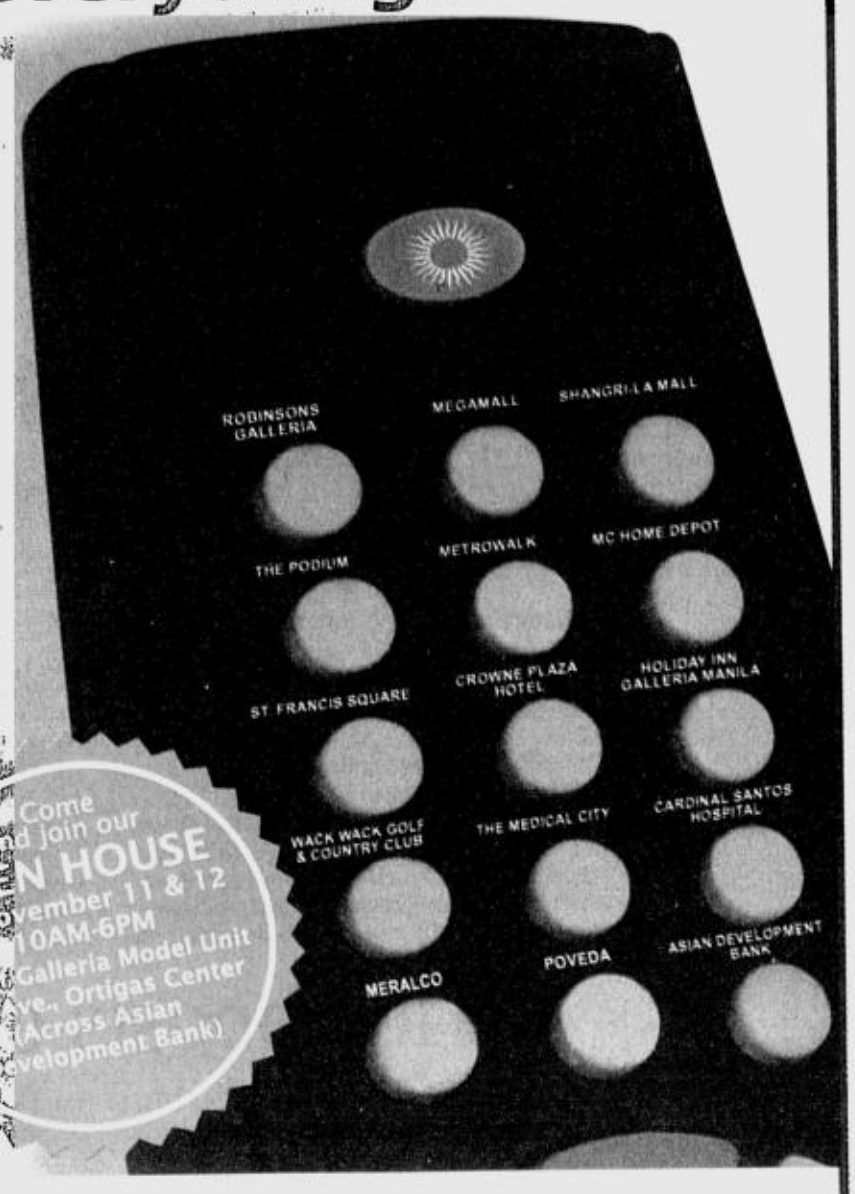

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BSP sees no need to support peso

Currency follows regional movement; fluctuation still within tolerable limits

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas said that the fluctuation of the Philippine peso is within tolerable levels and still comparable with movements of other currencies in the region, making it unnecessary for monetary authorities at the moment to intervene in the foreign exchange market.

"[The BSP's] policy is to allow the market to determine the [exchange] rate, although we can make our presence felt in the market from time to time to smoothen strong fluctuations," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters in a briefing on Friday.

Tetangco noted that the year-to-date volatility of the peso as of Friday stood at only 1.8 percent, lower than the 2 percent of the Indonesian rupiah and of the Thai baht. The Singaporean dollar and the Korean won hit an even lower volatility rate of 1.4 percent.

"The peso's volatility is still comparable with the others," Tetango said.

The volatility of a currency measures how aggressive it fluctuates from what is computed as the average foreign exchange rate.

Volatility of a currency is one of the things closely monitored by central banks, as it influences the competitiveness of a country's business environment. A currency with high volatility makes it difficult for businesses, especially exporters and those that import raw materials for their operations, to program their cost and income.

In terms of the annual rate of change, the peso hit 6 percent as of Friday, when the peso closed at 50.105 to the dollar. Tetangco said the rate of change was at the lower end of the 5.7- to 9.9-percent range in the region.

The rate of change for the Thai baht was at 9.9 percent; Indonesian rupiah, 7.3 percent; Singaporean dollar, 5.9 percent, and Korean won, 5.7 percent.

In September, the peso's close of 50.21 to a US dollar was far stronger than the 56.01 posted in the same month last year.

The peso's appreciation, marked by the recent drop to the 49-to-a-dollar level, has prompted some members of the business sector to believe that the BSP should undertake some market intervention to avoid the hasty strengthening of the local currency to the disadvantage of exporters.

But the BSP so far does not see any sufficient reason to intervene in the market.

Tetangco noted the conclusions that were made at the end of the recent Competitiveness Summit. He said competitiveness is dictated not largely by the currency, but by many other factors like level of infrastructure, availability of skilled labor and access to credit, especially by micro, small and medium enterprises.

The central bank governor admitted there could be more upward pressure on the peso because of the expected increase in inflows from foreign investments.

He said improving macroeconomic indicators, such as economic growth, easing of inflation and declining budget deficit of the government would attract investment inflows to come in, thus help in the strengthening of the peso.

He reiterated though that the BSP would only intervene in the movement of the exchange rate if fluctuations were deemed to have reached higher-than-average levels.

Credit card firms set out to stop separate pricing

CREDIT CARD COMPANIES want government to penalize business establishments that charge customers higher prices if they purchase goods and services using credit cards instead of cash.

"Prices should be the same whether the purchase is made using cash or card," said Rolando Tanchanco, chair of the Credit Card Association of the Philippines (CCAP). "That is the agreement between credit card companies and merchants."

Tanchanco said during the group's anniversary conference held on Friday that the CCAP would push for the immediate passage of either of two pending bills that will spell out the penalties to business establishments that set two different prices for the same product or service to the disadvantage of credit card holders.

The bills were filed last year by Representatives Joey Salceda and Edcel Lagman.

Currently, the Department of Trade and Industry monitors the way business establishments price their merchandise.

But Tanchanco said that the practice of setting of a higher price for purchases made using cards is rampant, especially among appliance stores.

Because enforcement of one-price charging has yet to be strengthened, Tanchanco said, what credit card companies could do was to dialogue with concerned business establishments. If talking does not work, then some credit card firms will be forced to cut business ties with the merchant, he said.

"Merchants should realize that, by accepting cards, their sales will increase," he said. "If [a merchant] limits itself only to cash, then revenues will also be limited."

Some business establishments charge a higher price to a customer using a credit card because of the cost entailed in accepting credit payments. But Tanchanco said merchants accepting payment in credit only have to pay a very "minimal" processing fee to the credit card companies, and that the cost of the fee could be more than compensated by the expected increase in sales for accepting credit-card payments.

The fight against separate pricing is one of the CCAP's agenda as it celebrates its 25th year anniversary.

Another problem facing the credit card industry is delinquency among credit card holders who fail to pay their obligations on time.

CCAP said it has established a credit information bureau of its own to protect their members from bad credit clients. The group said there are about 500,000 credit card holders included on the credit information bureau's blacklist.

Once an individual is placed on the blacklist of the credit information bureau, that person will have a difficult time acquiring new credit, the group said.

Tanchanco said a credit card holder would be placed on the blacklist if the person's liability, whatever the amount, remains unpaid for at least 150 days after the due date. *Michelle V. Remo*

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SCHOOLS offering medical transcription courses are proliferating all over the country.

Opportunities in medical transcription

Numbers look good but getting into the biz not that easy

By Eduardo A. Morato Jr.
Professor, Asian Institute of Management

BUSINESSES ARE SPROUTING AND jobs are growing in the medical transcription industry.

This year, the number of companies engaged in medical transcription has risen to 40 from 30 just two years ago. The number of jobs rose from 3,000 to 5,000 over the same period.

Due to this enormous manpower requirement, schools offering medical transcription courses are proliferating all over the country.

Medical transcriptionists listen to dictated recordings of physicians and other healthcare professionals and convert them to medical records, reports and correspondences using computers and

OPPORTUNITIES/ B2-3

Identity crisis in our universities

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Dr. Niceto S. Poblador

THE RECENTLY FORMED ASSOCIATION OF professionals, Philippine Business for Education (PBEd), has sounded off the clarion call to address the dismal state of Philippine education.

The business leaders that comprise this organization are best positioned to know that our educational system is simply not producing the knowledge resources that this country so desperately needs to compete effectively in a global, information-driven business environment.

There are countless reasons for the sorry state of education. One that certainly stands out is the failure of universities as social institutions to play their mandated role in society.

I shall argue here that universities in this country, with rare exceptions, have become ineffective in their social roles because they have lost their sense of mission and have become insensitive to their responsibility in addressing the crying needs of Philippines society.

Universities today are suffering from what could be termed as an identity crisis.

Most of them operate as quasi-business organizations funded by individuals, religious organizations, or private foundations that serve as the equivalent of shareholders in business corporations.

This group of stakeholders is entitled to the residual incomes of the universities, however, these returns on invested capital are labeled.

As a social institution, however, the university serves society and its many other stakeholders in many, often conflicting ways.

Traditionally, the university has had the important role of serving as repository of human knowledge and culture.

In this capacity, the university is seen as having a maintenance function, that of insuring continuity of the community's cultural heritage, its knowledge and technological base, social mores, values, beliefs and traditions.

By all outward indications—the recent nursing board examination scandal, for example—many universities are blissfully unaware of their role in preserving our national heritage and the human values that have long been part of our culture.

Social role

The university has yet another important social role. The university must also serve as an agent of change for society.

This function of the university has in recent years assumed greater importance due to the dramatic transformation in social, political and economic organization brought about by the information revolution, changes that are taking place at an ever accelerating pace.

As a major player in the creation and dissemination of knowledge, the university plays a key role in helping individuals, communities and other institutions adapt to these changes.

Indeed, the university itself must also learn to adapt to these changes. Regrettably, universities in this country have been remiss in fulfilling their social function as active participants in the change process.

In today's fast-changing and increasingly complex society, universities must also serve the conflicting interests of their many other stakeholders. Among the direct beneficiaries of the universities' activities are their students and the prospective employers of their graduates.

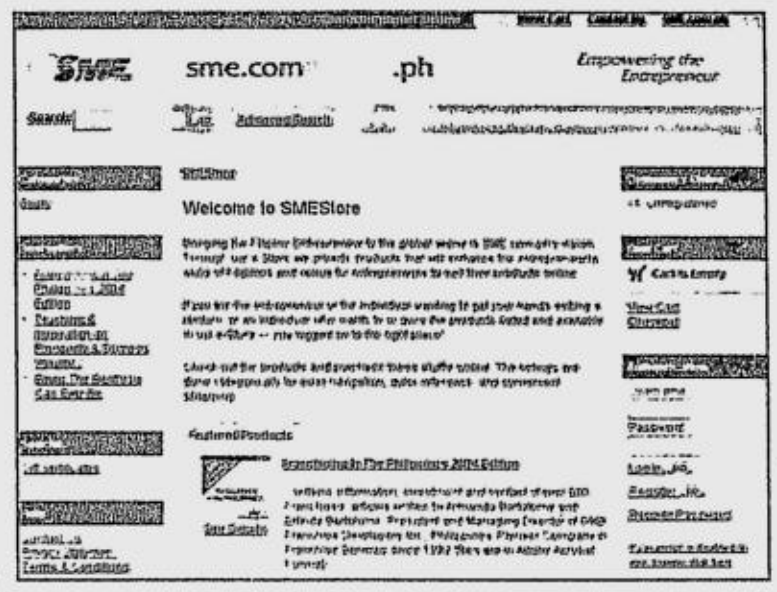
Free enterprise education

Most universities in the country today see themselves as being "market-driven" and produce the types of knowledge and compe-

IDENTITY/ B2-3

All about virtual malls

Are Filipino consumers ready for online shopping?



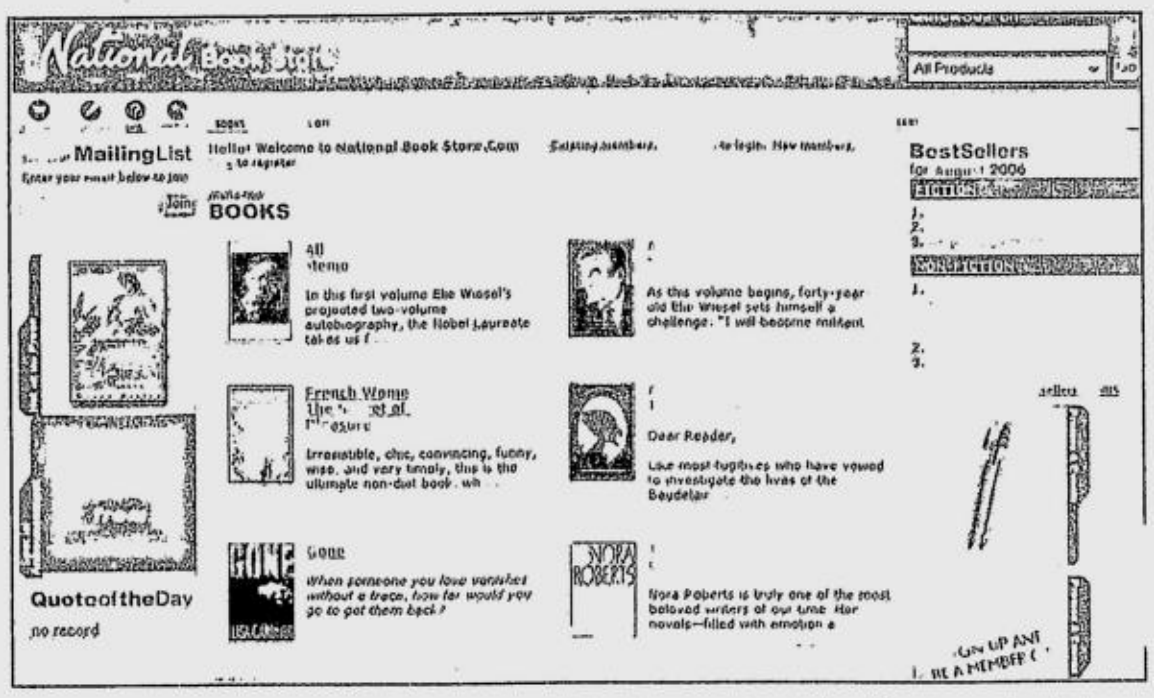
By Chipi Buenafe
PC Magazine Philippines

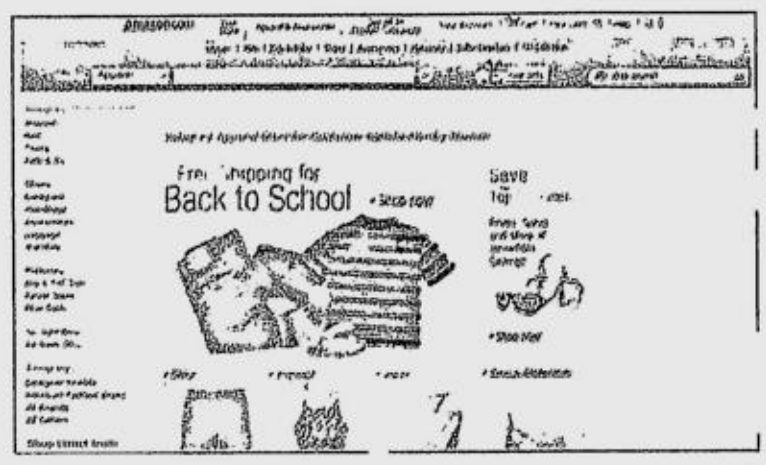
GOING TO THE MALLS IS FUN and cool. Will virtual malls be any different?

There are many virtual shopping malls on the web today. Virtual malls contain most of the things that traditional malls have. The obvious difference is that virtual malls enable customers to shop while sitting in front of the PC in the comfort of their homes. The more popular examples would be www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com.

A virtual mall is a collection of different virtual shops. Like traditional shopping malls, virtual malls categorize their shops and products to make it easier for customers to navigate the site. Customers are given one online shopping cart that they can use during their visit.

One current problem with Philippine e-marketplaces and virtual shops is the lack of promotion and visibility. Not many people know about them, although these same people could be aware of and actually buy from foreign sites such as www.amazon.com. This may soon change. While there are very few virtual shops in the Philippines at the moment, greater awareness may soon make it feasible to operate a full-scale virtual mall.





Advantages

First, virtual malls do not require the customers to physically visit the site. This allows the customers to save on time and travel expenses. Customers can browse without having to walk a single step to find the products they need. This is much more convenient than walking around and visiting several physical shops.

Second, online shoppers do not have to carry anything while shopping for different items. This is particularly helpful when one is shopping for many items or appliances. The virtual mall will take care of the delivery of the purchased products to the customer.

Third, customers will not have to worry about parking spaces and fees. Nor will customers have to worry about navigating through crowded shops.

Online shoppers can also finish their shopping by placing all the items in a virtual shopping cart. Payment comes at the end of your shopping spree and is a one-time thing.

Security Issues

The payment schemes of prominent virtual malls are sufficiently secure since most of them accredit PayPal, which serves as a third party in online transactions between two parties. PayPal and local providers such as YesPayments keep the financial information of its members private and secure. This means online sellers do not have access to this information. Payment providers also prevent unauthorized users from accessing the accounts of its members.

While online transactions cannot be 100 percent safe all the time, both online malls and payment providers take steps to ensure safe and secure transactions. Another caveat is that customers have to be careful about their passwords and other private data that they send over the Internet.

Since there is no real-time way for customers to ensure that items they paid for will be delivered, it is advisable to do business only with established virtual malls such as MyAyala.com, Divisoria.com or SME.com.ph. Reputable virtual malls will only send out items upon confirmed payment and take pains to ensure proper delivery. They will also handle returns, if any.

Disadvantages

Most virtual malls require that their customers have a credit or debit card. This means that customers who do not have their own credit card cannot do online shopping on their own. This limits the market of virtual malls.

Another issue is that online shoppers cannot physically inspect and test the items they are buying. In a culture where touch, feel and even smell play a role in the purchasing decision, this is a drawback. Even if there is usually a guarantee on items bought, it's still a bother for customers to return defective items and await delivery of the replacement. Fortunately, reputable online malls take returns and refunds seriously and attend to these. One other thing: there's no such service as a virtual fitting booth, so customers will have to know their exact sizes.

While it's more convenient to window shop online, many virtual malls cannot display full images of products until the customer clicks on a small thumbnail. Online malls have to be wary about bandwidth limitations.

Finally, physical malls offer real-time shopping. Shoppers get what they want as soon as they pick the item up and pay for it. Virtual malls will first have to verify orders, before actually sending the products out. On the other hand, it is this ability to sell and deliver to distant locations that is also the primary advantage of virtual malls.

For examples of growing local virtual shops, check out www.sme.com.ph and www.nationalbookstore.com.

SME.com.ph is mainly an online directory of different businesses while nationalbookstore.com is the online version of the country's biggest bookstore chain. While there are less products offered, these sites are good starters of a potential booming e-marketplace in the country.

Customer's choice

On one hand, virtual malls make it a lot easier for people to shop. On the other, there are still a number of things that can only be done by going to a physical mall. While online shopping is more convenient in many ways, it is not necessarily faster. It is advantageous to shop online for items not immediately needed such as books, furniture, and computer games. In the end, the customer is always right, and the customer will decide whether it's better to go online or mosey along over to a brick-n-mortar mall for a particular item.

Learn more about virtual malls and start your Christmas shopping early with PC Magazine Philippines October-November 2006 issue. PC Magazine Philippines' Holiday Tech Guide scours shops for the best tech presents you can give this holiday season. Find out the best digital camera that's within your budget. Check out the e-commerce articles on monetizing blogs and online payment solutions. To get more out of technology, grab the most widely read tech magazine in the country.

Managing networks made easy with Intel's vPro technology

By Abigail L. Ho

CHIP GIANT INTEL CORP. IS GIVING INFORmation technology managers more power in managing enterprise networks as well as more time to spend on innovation with the release of its Intel vPro technology in the country.

Jonathan Ong, marketing manager for Intel Asia Pacific's digital office platform marketing group, called the vPro technology "the game changer for business desktops" as it provided built-in manageability, proactive security and energy-efficient performance.

Citing a Gartner study, he said 89 percent of a company's IT spending usually went to maintenance and only 11 percent went to innovation. It cited the numerous manual processes involved in managing enterprise networks as one of the key inhibitors to innovation.

With the vPro technology, he said IT managers need not do as many desk-side visits whenever something happens to an individual user's PC, freeing up time for other things.

The second generation of the Intel Active Management Technology, which comes with the vPro package, brings to the desktop many remote management functions that previously existed only on servers, including remote access to asset and diagnostic tools even when the PC is turned off, and the implementation of virtual software appliances to enhance the security and reliability of corporate PCs.

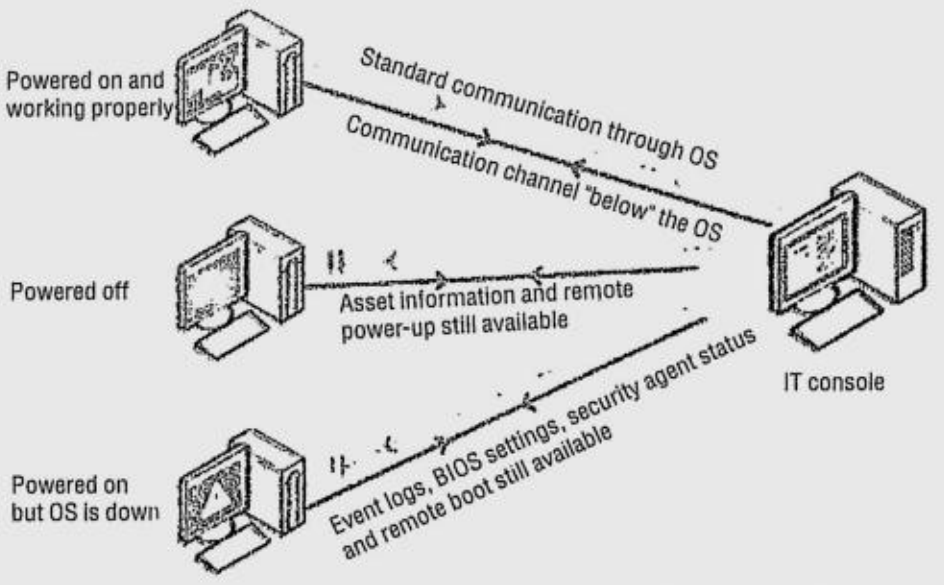
Remote management allows IT managers to address PC problems without having to go to the users encountering such problems. PC tweaking can be done even when an individual user has shut down his terminal, reducing user downtime.

The vPro platform also provides hardware-assisted virus protection, which allows antivirus software makers to exploit embedded filters to better protect network-connected PCs.

The antivirus software has also been moved away from the client PCs, Ong said, eliminating the risk of accidental disablement of antivirus software by individual users.

With Intel's Core 2 Duo at the heart of the vPro technology, he said corporate PCs could deliver up to a 40-percent increase in performance and a 40-percent increase in energy efficiency.

"Very simply, vPro is a change of course in the way businesses and IT managers view and use PCs. We are packing in features that address what plagues businesses most—security threats, cost of ownership, resource allocation, asset management and uptime—into a single platform," Intel Microelectronics Philippines country manager Ricky Banaag said.



REMOTE-COMMUNICATION channel. The hardware-based communication channel runs outside the OS, so it remains available even when PCs are powered off or their OS is not available. Image from Intel's White Paper on the vPro Technology.

Opportunities ...

From page B2-1

auditory devices.

Their transcribed outputs become permanent records of patients' medical histories.

Aging of America

The global market for outsourcing medical transcriptions (MT) is mainly propelled by the United States, which passed a law in 1996 "to improve the portability and continuity of healthcare insurance, to combat waste, fraud and abuse in healthcare, to improve access to long-term care...."

The law recognized the aging of America and the tremendous upsurge in health expenditures, which ballooned to $1.7 trillion in 2004. As a result, hospitals and clinics began maintaining their own MT staff or outsourcing MT to local and offshore providers.

In 1990, Americans visited healthcare providers at the rate of 2,900 appointments per 100,000 population. This increased to 4,256 visitations in 2005.

This meant 98 billion transcribed MT lines (at 80 lines per visit) with a value of $13.8 billion. Number of visits are projected to climb to 4,772 in 2010 with the corresponding volume of 110 billion lines and value of $15.5 billion. (Source: Al Villaos, Asian Institute of Management.)

Roughly 105,000 medical transcriptionists are listed in the United States although another 100,000 or so may be providing such services.

The dearth of MT manpower in America has forced some of the MT companies to outsource this function. India has been able to grab the lion's share (or 80 percent) of the $120 million offshore-outsourced US business.

This amount is small compared to the total MT market of $14 billion.

Concerns

Security, quality and delivery concerns of US hospitals and physicians have limited the MT offshore-outsourcing opportunity despite the fact that Indian companies can provide the service at a very low cost of $0.04 a MT line compared to the US rate of $0.14 a line.

However, this tremendous price differential will motivate American entrepreneurs to seek more and more foreign subcontactors.

The Philippines has a long way to go before it catches up with India which contributed 2.3 billion lines or 2 percent of the US market in 2004.

The low wages and high average productivity of Indian MTs (600 average lines per day) make it a daunting competitor. The higher the productivity of an MT firm, the more it can competitively price.

For example, a productivity level of only 500 lines per day means that the MT service provider must price at $0.05 per line in order to get the same return on investment. A still lower productivity of 350 lines per day will force the price to go up to $0.07 per line. (Villaos, AIM)

Stringent requirements

Philippine MT companies must comply with the stringent requirements of US outsourcers. They demand an accuracy level of 98 percent from their subcontractors.

This means that MTs must be well versed in English, they must understand medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, and comprehend diagnostic procedures, pharmacology and treatment assessments.

They must comply with specific style, legal and ethical standards. This requires good, rigorous MT training. However, the rewards are great.

For highly productive and accurate MTs who are able to churn out 1,000 lines a day, they can earn as much as P30,000 a month. The take home pay is, of course, much less for slower transcriptionists.

Cut off is at 400 lines a day with basic pay ranging from P13,000 to P15,000 a month. Incentives run from P0.50 to P1.40 per line depending on the accuracy level.

An interview with the managers of MTC Academy, the first Tesda registered and largest MT school revealed the following information.

The accuracy and productivity requirements of US firms demand a lot of skilling. Because of this, MTC Academy runs the longest MT courses in the country.

For high school graduates, there is the Basic Medical Transcription course which runs for 14 months plus four months of on-the-job training. For non-medical college graduates, the Intermediate MT course is shorter at six months with three more for OJT.

For students with allied medical backgrounds, the course runs for four months with two more for OJT while medical doctors take only three months with one month for OJT. Fees for the short course are at about P22,000, climbing to P36,000 for the nine-month course.

There are about 27 schools offering MT courses in the Philippines, some of them branching out to many parts of the country. MTC Academy boasts of 32 branches. Their graduates have the possibility of getting placed in jobs offered by their own sister companies.

Around 70 percent of the school's graduates have found MT jobs, compared to less than 50 percent two years ago. This indicates more job availability in the industry.

However, not all students obtain their diplomas. English deficiency is a major stumbling block. Complicated medical jargon is another.

Medical transcription opportunities may abound but only if the entrepreneur finds the right US contacts and is able to meet their exacting quality and productivity standards. The business is not just for anybody with the money. It is a global game with global competitors playing at global standards.

Identity crisis in our universities

From page B2-1

tencies that are in demand by students and employers. As a rule, students enroll in courses that they perceive will enhance their "employability."

However, in satisfying these perceived immediate needs of their students, universities fail to provide them with the basic knowledge and competencies that are essential for life long learning and personal growth.

Without these personal skills, they are unable to continue learning after they leave the university, and they will fail to achieve their full potential as productive members of their organizations and of the community.

The demand of most prospective employers is typically for the types of knowledge, skills and capabilities that are considered "useful" and "practical" for the organization.

Not too many employers actively seek creative, innovative and critical minded graduates because they tend to be "intractable" and hence, unproductive.

Yet, ironically, this precisely is the type of knowledge workers that organizations need for their long run survival in today's fast-changing, highly complex, and continuously evolving world of knowledge.

Moral obligation

I believe that the university has the moral obligation to change the misplaced perceptions of their "'customers," and to convince them that their long-run interests, and those of society, depends on a different type of knowledge and value orientation than what they have long been accustomed to demand and to pay for.

The faculty comprises yet another important group of stakeholders in any university. Its professional teaching staff constitutes the university's collective mind and soul, and its main workforce in service delivery.

In addition to decent incomes that satisfy their basic economic needs, professors must also be provided with ample opportunities for professional development and the wherewithal for leading wholesome, productive lives.

Long-term interest

This in the long run is in the interest not only of the faculty, but indeed, of the university itself.

A final group of stakeholders in the university, mentioned at the early part of this column, are the individuals and organizations that invest the needed funds and resources.

This group of stakeholders typically requires their appointed agents—the men and women who manage and administer the university "to run a tight ship," as the expression goes, and exert pressures on them to maximize organizational efficiency and effectiveness.

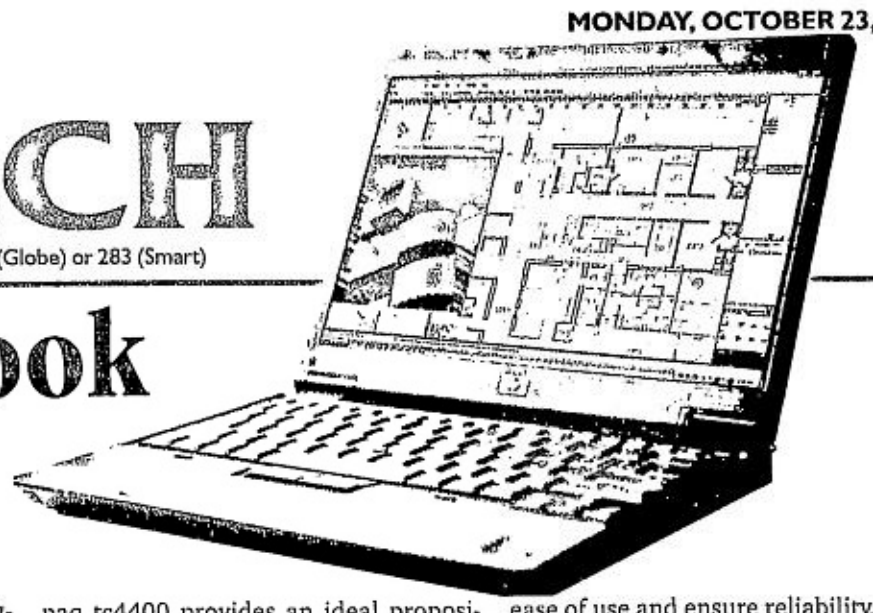
Regrettably, by being too focused on achieving short-term, measurable results, university administrators frequently compromise not only the long-run interest of the "owners" but more importantly, those of all the other stakeholders in the university as well.

There are no hard and fast rules for solving this crisis. In the ultimate analysis, much depends on enlightened academic leadership and a high sense of moral responsibility among those who make the critical choices, both in and out of the university.

These, regrettably, appear to be in short supply in this all-important sector of our society.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is an active academic and a knowledge management consultant. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Lightweight yet tough notebook PCs from HP Compaq



By Abigail L. Ho

BUSINESS USERS SEEKING A LIGHTweight yet tough notebook PC may have finally met their match with the HP Compaq nc2400 notebook PC, the latest addition to Hewlett-Packard Philippines' business notebook portfolio in the country.

Ian Reyes, marketing development manager at HP Philippines' Personal System Group, says the new business notebook can withstand coffee or water spills and are tough enough to be carried around anywhere.

Designed with the frequent traveler in mind, the HP Compaq nc2400 is the company's thinnest and lightest notebook to date, with a starting weight of less than 1.3 kilos. While as thin as 24.8 millimeters, it has a 12.1-inch widescreen display with a large viewable area and an integrated optical drive.

HP Philippines has also launched the HP Compaq tc4400, which is configurable as either a notebook PC or a convertible Tablet PC.

It offers a 12.1-inch XGA display with a 160-degree wide viewing angle. Its optional outdoor display allows users to clearly see their screens even in daylight conditions when screen glare is most pronounced.

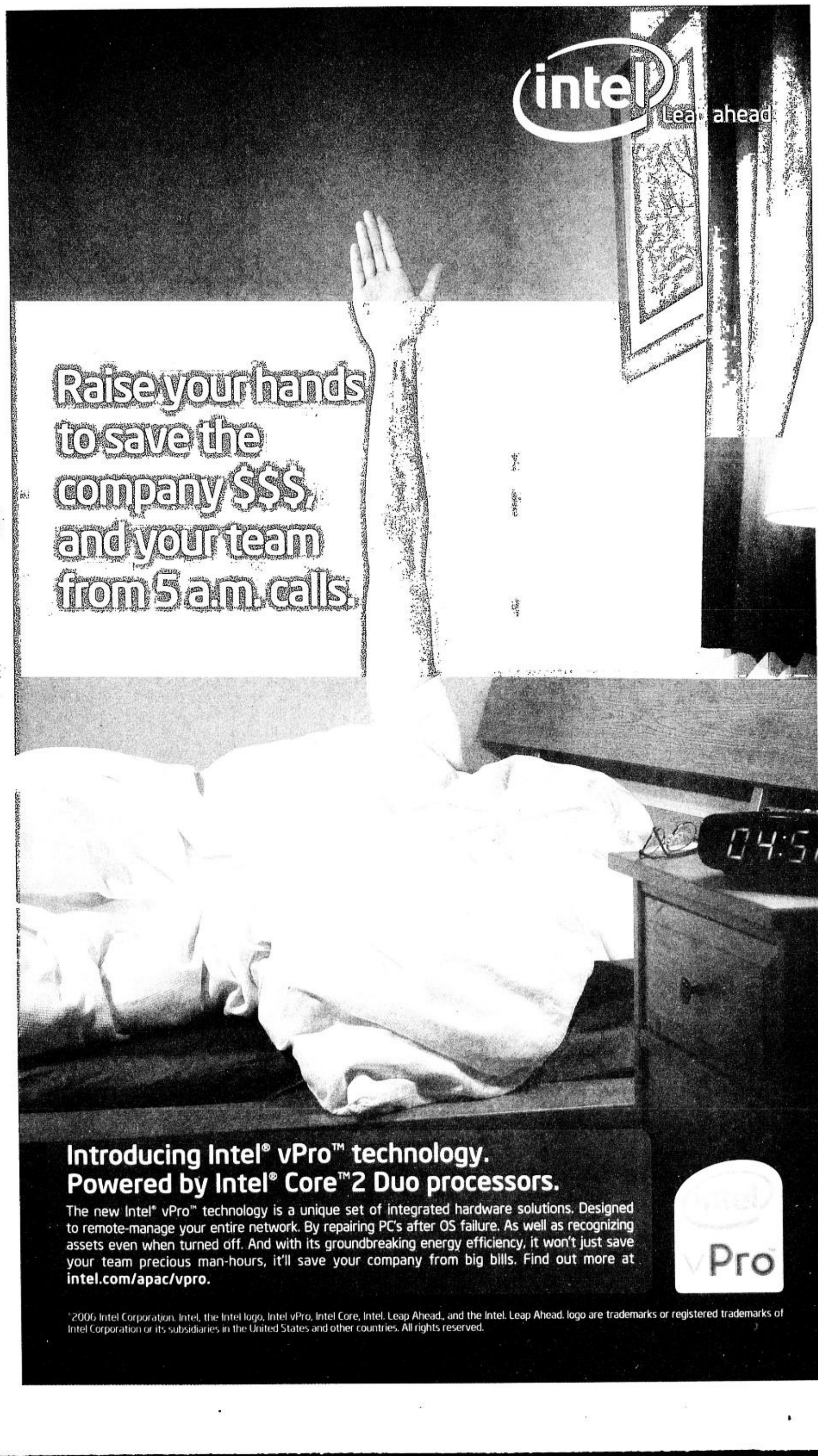
For business users who are always on the go and who usually do not have access to electrical sockets, the HP Compaq tc4400 provides an ideal proposition as its battery life can last up to 16 hours with the HP Ultra-Capacity Battery.

Both notebooks run on Intel Corp.'s Core 2 Duo processors, which are designed to boost performance while enhancing energy efficiency. The notebooks are also Windows Vista-capable.

HP Professional Innovations, a hardware and software package that is designed to enhance security, improve ease of use and ensure reliability, is also incorporated into the new business notebooks.

New technologies that users can take advantage of include the HP Biometric Fingerprint Sensor, HP Disk Sanitizer and Mobile Data Protection System 3D, which all aim to mitigate risks and increase user productivity.

The HP Compaq nc2400 series go for P99,950, while the HP Compaq tc4400 series has a starting price of P119,950.



Money in the Bank

By Zennon Kapron, Intel Asia Pacific Financial Services Vertical Industry Manager

Financial services companies are demanding smaller, faster, and smarter solutions. They are discovering that the same value points are addressed using new desktop technologies, without the infrastructure restrictions or inflexible structures that older, terminal-based systems impose. Better performance, better manageability and more security all help front-office staff perform their jobs - and deliver the responsiveness demanded by today's banking customers.

There has been a shift towards a more complete customer experience and convenience. In many banks, tellers are required to perform cross-selling activity at the window, without relying on a separate set of advisors for every sales opportunity. This new approach relies on staff being able to quickly access and analyze customer information. A teller needs a single source of truth when it comes to information on the customer's position and their financial lifecycle.

However, older terminals at many banks are unable to present a single window into customer data. A text-based terminal cannot provide prompts, flag new special offers to the teller, or suggest other products that fit the customer's profile.

A new breed of high performance PCs can now help tellers be more proactive. They can run a host of specifically-tailored marketing applications-ideal for on-the-spot up-selling or cross selling opportunities at the first point of customer contact.

Financial advisors in bank branches also benefit from highly specific yet compute-intensive applications similar to those used at capital markets firms. Financial advisors can now use these applications to increase customer visibility, improve cross-selling rates and increase wallet share.

High-performance desktop PCs also offer access to real-time customer views and account value positions. Using connected PCs, immediate access to information that can help bank staff seize short-term market opportunities and make best-case recommendations to their clients.

Financial services firms require tremendous amounts of computing resource to handle all transactions, local and international, demanded by a range of customers. The ability of high-power PCs to link into existing global networks provides a new range of flexibility and responsiveness, particularly for Internet banking and account management, which need constant customization to stay fresh. These channels demand the highest levels of security; a need that only technology can fulfill in today's complex business environments.

Customer responsiveness goes beyond front-end applications. Highly scalable infrastructures are required to efficiently connect the customer to the global financial industry. If a system can display multiple product offerings at the branch position, but cannot quickly access the data and decision support it needs, business opportunities vanish and customer satisfaction suffers.

Dual-core processor-based desktop PCs employ advanced management and security techniques that create an unprecedented combination of agility and capability. With this new breed of powerful desktops, staff can enjoy a responsive experience as they multitask across multiple demanding applications while bank security and management tasks continue to run in the background.

Secured transactions amounting to million of dollars and exposing confidential client data are transacted on a daily basis. Using new hardware platforms, software experts have collaborated with hardware R&D teams to solve security issues posed by desktop machines. Increased user access to the compute kernel requires extra vigilance.

Now, critical security applications can run in the background in a virtual partition while users are working on compute-intensive tasks within the standard operating system (OS) environment. This approach keeps vital security processes isolated from potential OS security compromises and ensures they are isolated from threats such as viral emails. Updates and security management can even be managed while the machine is powered down for maximum convenience and firewalled safety.

IT managers have already welcomed this new approach to security. It brings remote management techniques to the desktop that previously only existed on servers.

The New Solution

The new solution bringing relief to the financial services industry's highly varied demands are PCs with Intel® vPro™ technology. Provided on a coherent, standardized system, it includes manageability and proactive security features with the second-generation of Intel® Active Management Technology (Intel® AMT) built into the chipset, and Intel® Virtualization Technology (Intel® VT). Intel® VT is integrated into the new dual-core Intel® Core™2 Duo processor featured on every PC with Intel vPro technology.

These hardware innovations, when combined with industry software solutions, offer unprecedented manageability, security, and energy efficient performance together with reduced operating costs and increased user-level functionality. Intel AMT can even manage, inventory, diagnose, and repair PCs when they are turned off or experience OS or hard drive interruptions.

ADVT.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2006 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS Monday

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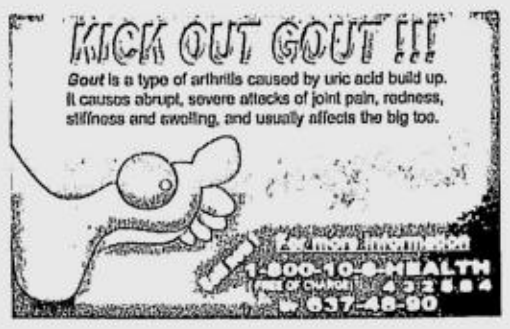
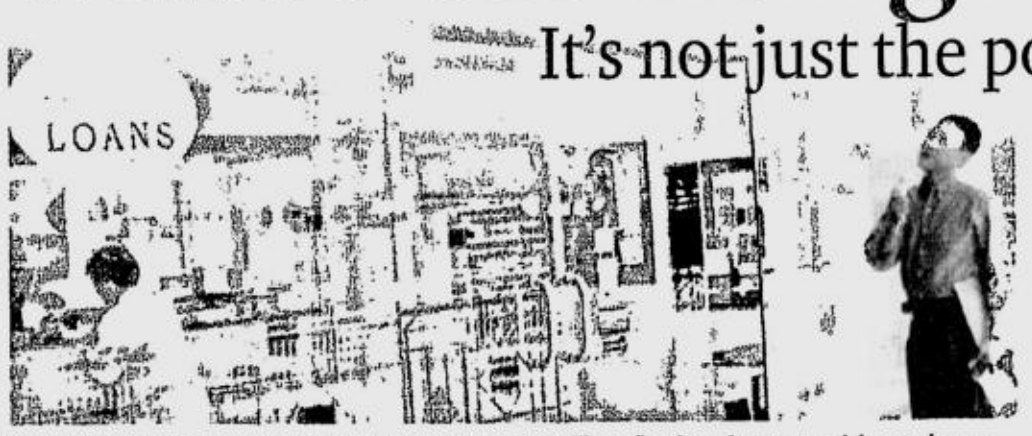


Where the rich go when they need cash

It's not just the poor and middle class who run to pawnshops



THE RICH GO to special pawnshops that look more like a fine jewelry store with art pieces and deep lounge chairs.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE POOR AND THE MIDDLE-CLASS are not the only ones patronizing pawnshops. The rich do, too.

Like their countrymen of lesser means, the rich sometimes need quick cash to tide them over until the next windfall and they believe going to a pawnshop is a cheaper and faster alternative to either selling land, withdrawing time deposits or taking out a loan.

The only difference is that the rich pawn high-value items, such as designer bags, signature Swiss watches, diamond rings of at least one carat, fashion jewelry and even home theater systems, in exchange for loans that run in the six figures.

And the affluent do not go to the friendly neighborhood pawnshop, with its requisite bars and heavy safe.

They instead go to those that specialize in appraising and securing expensive items, such as Agencia de Empenos de Makati Inc., that look more like a fine jewelry store with its art pieces and deep lounge chairs where guests are treated to Lavazza coffee.

Agencia proprietor Mike Dizon tells SundayBiz in an interview that pawning high-value items is actually part of the lifestyle of the affluent in Southeast Asia, and is starting to pick up in the Philippines.

Contrary to popular belief, the rich do sometimes run out of cold cash.

"Most everyone will need cash

WHERE/ B2-2

Exciting amenities, countless possibilities abound at Tagaytay Highlands

Urban life in Metro Manila has become extremely stressful. Traffic jams, all forms of pollution (sound, noise, and air), as well as cramped, crowded places have become part of the day-to-day existence and landscape. People compete with one another for a breath of fresh air and decent space to move around amidst the nerve-wracking demands and rigors of fast-paced living. Stress has definitely taken its toll on many Metro Manilans' physical, emotional, mental and even spiritual health.

With the hustle and bustle of city life, one definitely needs a change of scenery and should have the opportunity to hie off to a vacation destination where fresh air, clean surroundings, wholesome food, healthful amenities, and refreshing activities are just waiting to be experienced and enjoyed.

At Tagaytay Highlands, the air is fresh, fragrant and calming. It is the perfect retreat for the young, the upwardly mobile and the elderly who need to recharge from the toxicity of urban life. Nestled at the peak of Tagaytay City, the complex is blessed with a climate that is cool all year round and unspoiled by pollution. It boasts of a panoramic landscape of lush greenery, colorful flowers, rich forests, and breathtaking sights including the majestic Taal Volcano Lake.

Aside from the health-friendly surroundings, Tagaytay Highlands is a haven of health-promoting and wellness activities. Green-thumbed patrons can engage in gardening and weekend farming, popular as great stress-reducing leisure pursuits. Sports and fitness buffs can indulge in energy-pumping, tension-releasing activities such as various outdoor sports and wellness-promoting endeavors like the Spa or simply visiting the Greenhouse where organic herbs and vegetables are grown hydroponically and are the bill of fare of the organic eatery.

Truly a one-of-a-kind leisure destination, Tagaytay Highlands never ceases to amaze its members and visitors with first-class amenities and sports and recreational facilities, as well as continuing and endless world-class development projects within the sprawling complex.

and BELLE CORPORATION

present

The Double Pleasure of the American South...

Members of Tagaytay Highlands will be introduced to two new breathtaking lifestyle projects via an exclusive "by-invitation-only" preview over Cocktails and American Country music on Thursday, 26 October 2006, 6:00p.m. at the Highlands Steakhouse, SM Mall of Asia.

This ad is for announcement purposes only.

Two of its latest offerings – The Verandas at Saratoga Hills, and Plantation Ranch – promise to offer excellent value to Tagaytay Highlands and Tagaytay Midlands members who want a new and exciting lifestyle concept to invest in.

The Verandas at Saratoga Hills promises to bring the romance, splendor and brilliance of the American South, amidst the magnificence and uniqueness of the Tagaytay Highlands golf and leisure development. It will attempt to take homeowners back to the bygone days when family living was simple – slow-paced and more idyllic, in contrast to the hectic frenzy of today's urban routine.

In The Verandas, lot owners are encouraged to build roof-covered, open-sided living spaces such as terraces, verandas and porches at the front of each home, to maximize enjoyment of the fresh breeze, soothing landscaped scenery, and congenial atmosphere of neighborliness.

With the formal launching of The Verandas, Plantation Hills will also be re-introduced with the announcement of a prospective additional phase (6th phase) called Plantation Ranch. Plantation Hills has grown to a little over 100 hectares of prime farm lots. Members' interest in the leisure farming lifestyle continues to grow.

The organic method of farming will continue to be promoted at Plantation Ranch. But in addition to this nature-inspired activity, Plantation Ranch will include a four (4) kilometer long bridle path which will be a convenient riding trail for beginners or those who want an easy ride. A regulation-size outdoor dressage arena and a 60-foot pen have also been planned for this phase. More landscaped walkways, jogging lanes and biking paths are expected to be incorporated.

Plantation Ranch will allow homeowners to breed and raise horses amidst the cool provincial breeze and a healthy mix of traditional living in their farm and ranch lots while enjoying the comforts provided by the Highlands and Midlands golf and country clubs.

Belle Corporation, owner and developer of Tagaytay Highlands, will unveil these new lifestyle projects through an exclusive "by-invitation-only" preview on October 26, 2006 at the Highlands Steakhouse, SM Mall of Asia. The grand launch will be done over cocktails, and entertainment numbers will center on American country music to highlight the "American South" motif of The Verandas and Plantation Ranch.

The launch event of The Verandas and the introduction of Plantation Ranch promises to be doubly significant as Belle Corporation embarks on a well-meaning social responsibility of sponsoring The Center for Possibilities Foundation, Inc. – a group committed to be the "haven of hope" for children with special challenges and their families.

The Foundation seeks to unite all existing, disparate and untapped resources and organizations, and experts into one organized umbrella force to create thehope for a bright future by organizing, establishing and providing nurturing, enriching and empowering facilities, expertise and expenences to challenged children and their families.

By sponsoring The Center for Possibilities Foundation, Inc., Belle Corporation opens a new door of possibilities for children with challenges and further solidifies its reputation as a responsible corporate citizen.

Highlands
Tagaytay City, Philippines

Tagaytay Highlands (046) 483-0824
Belle Corporation 687-2885 or 09189916332

FOR MEMBERS ONLY
of Tagaytay Highlands and Tagaytay Midlands

www.TagaytayHighlands.com

Firm talks about its secret on developing people

UPS FOUNDER JIM CASEY ONCE said, "You (a company) cannot be successful entirely through your own efforts. All of us, if we are to accomplish anything worthwhile, will do it largely through the help of and cooperation of the people who work with us."

The firm tries to reflect its marketing line "Deliver more" in all aspects of operations.

The company's history has shown leadership and vision in designing programs to recruit, retaining and developing its people. The leadership and vision is cascaded and felt by employees in UPS Philippines.

Tenure and compensation

Rolly Nierva, UPS Philippines HR Manager, says the firm has a low turnover rate since it started operations in 1997. The average length of service of its employees is five years. "In fact, out of the current 475 employees, 160 of them are pioneer staff who have been with us since UPS began our operations in the Philippines," Nierva says.

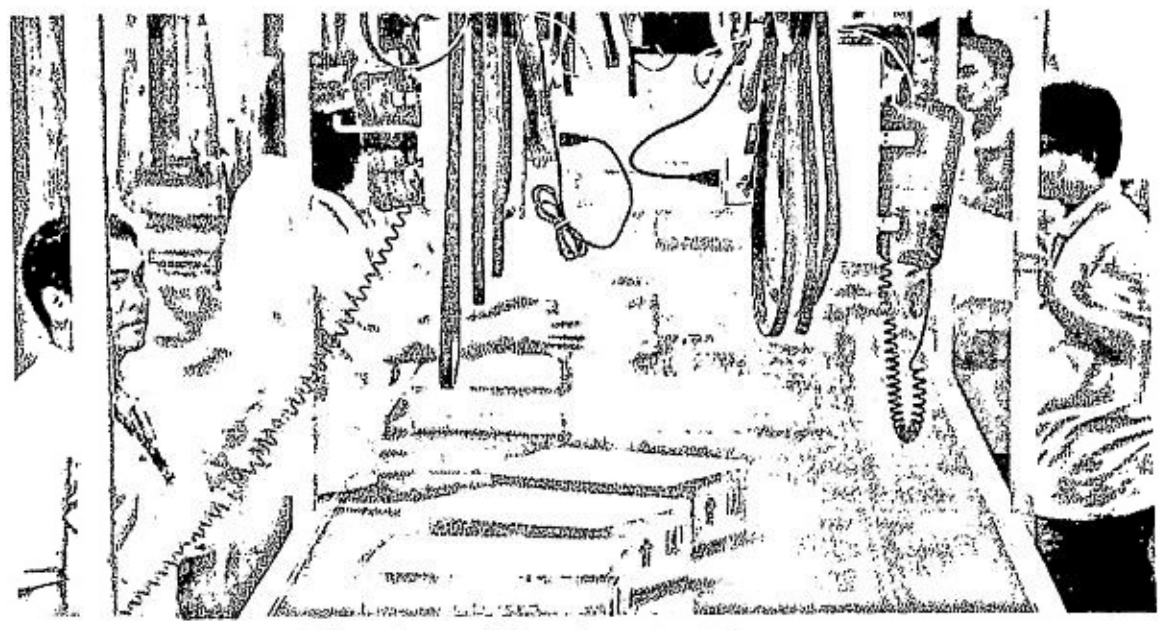
"We believe in creating the right incentive for our employees to keep them motivated, and ultimately, happy and comfortable in their working environment," Nierva added. "This comes in the form of our competitive compensation packages. We developed annual wage plans using compensation surveys conducted by two leading compensation and benefits consultants in the country. On top of that, UPS emphasizes a variable bonus plan in accordance with its business results and employee performance."

Promote from within

UPS observes a system of "promoting from within."

"As a company, we practice a policy wherein our people is the first priority should an opportunity for career advancement comes along. If there is a vacant position, we try to provide that opportunity to a qualified applicant within the company before we recruit someone externally," shares Nierva.

Nierva adds that "UPS encourages its people to have a voice in the company. They are encouraged to speak up and state their opinions and thoughts."



OUT OF UPS' Philippines' 475 employees, 160 are pioneering staff.

The firm follows a consistent system which is aligned with its international "Balanced Scorecard"—a strategic measurement and management system that translates the company's mission and strategy into a comprehensive set of performance measures. Its senior management conveys the company's vision and goals to the regional offices. These goals will then be adjusted to better suit individual countries before passing on to the designated country offices as the framework for performance and employee motivation.

"But more than anything, we believe in developing our people. It's one thing to get through a day by working and delivering requirements, but it's definitely another to get through that same day with a conscious effort to learn something new," concludes Nierva.

By studying their performance and capabilities, UPS management is able to put its people in the right training and development programs to mold them into better workers and enhance their learning and performance output.

UPS is the world's largest package delivery company and a global leader in supply chain services, offering an extensive range of options for synchronizing the flow of goods, information and funds. Headquartered in Atlanta, USA, UPS serves more than 200 countries and territories worldwide. UPS's stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange (UPS) and the company can be found on the Web at www.ups.com.

Where the rich go ...

From page B2-1

sometimes, we make it easier and more comfortable for them," he says.

Dizon says the rich sometimes pawn their possessions for just a short while, from as short as a day to about a month, and the key to getting their items is to ensure that their items will be taken care of and that they get a good price for them.

For this reason, Dizon and his key staff go through training to properly appraise the value of these prized possessions.

Agencia is a member of the US National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors and trained with the Gemological Institute of America.

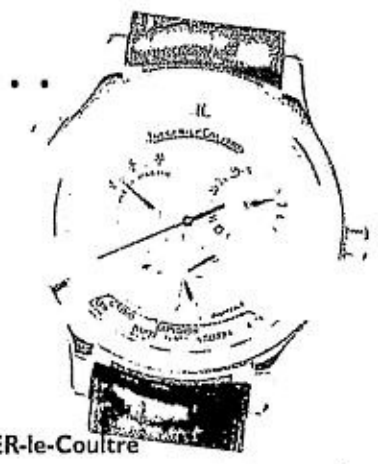
There are also appraisal experts of Swiss watches, jewelry and diamonds, high-end Southeast Asian paintings and other collectibles like Murano vases from Italy to service discriminating clients that include chief executive officers, show biz talents, basketball players and society matrons.

To ensure the safety of these items, Agencia installed top-of-the-line fire proof safes and the latest in security equipment.

Among the venerated Swiss watches, Patek Philippe, Jaeger-le-Coultre and Vacheron Constantin brands command the highest appraisal and are among the most traded in the second-hand market, based on his experience operating the Secondo second-hand shop in Glorietta 1, Ayala Center.

Other heavily traded brands include Cartier, Rolex, Breguet, Audemars Piguet, IWC, Officine Panerai, Franck Muller, Omega, A Lange & Sohne, Breitling, Zenith, Chopard and Piaget.

For the jewelry, it's the Harry Winston, Bulgary and Tiffany Co. brands that are the most popular and enjoy the highest resale value.



JAEGER-le-Coultre

Dizon says the value of the watches is dictated partly by the limited supply and the exclusivity attached to the brand.

For those who eventually want to sell their watches, he advises them to keep the box, the tools and the manuals. Without them, the pieces loses some of their value. The same goes for the jewelry.

THIS BREGUET watch has a tag price of $74,500 or some P3.7 million

Watches, he says, are more easily traded than jewelry. Paintings also take a while to be sold because these need to be authenticated.

Dizon admits that the market for his kind of specialty pawnshop is small and not likely to grow as fast as his second-hand shops for watches, but he is happy to service the market because it is steady and less risky than the ordinary pawnshops.

Dizon estimates the default rate at just 10 percent since the owners almost always want to get their items back.

There is such a thing as a sentimental value, after all, and there's no price tag for that.

PRINCE ALBERT II of Monaco (6th from right) recently saluted three family foundations which received the global awards for philanthropy. The three are Fundacio Lluis Carulla of Spain, the Ivey Foundation of Canada and the Lopez Group of Foundation Inc.

Dr. Ned Roberto's 4th Applied Marketing Research Seminar

October 26 & 27, 2006 8:30am-5:30pm
Hotel Intercon, Makati City (G/F Legaspi Room)

Learn how to make smart and profitable decisions from Dr. Ned Roberto's highly acclaimed Applied Marketing Research (AMR) seminar series. This edition will feature real life examples based on Dr. Roberto's more than 30 years of marketing experience. There will also be new and updated modules on pricing, positioning, advertising and copy testing.

Be like our past attendees who were always excited to go back to work to implement research techniques that will improve their brand's sales and market share just after attending an AMR seminar.

A much sought-after International marketing consultant, author and an Agora Awardee for achievement in marketing education, Dr. Roberto first conducted the Applied Marketing Research seminar in 1981. He has consulted and conducted in-house seminars for Fortune 500 companies in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. He is the author (with Philip Kotler) of Social Marketing, as well as the best-selling User-Friendly Marketing Research.

Get a chance to apply Dr. Roberto's marketing research techniques on:
- Assessing advertising and promotion campaigns. With research you can make advertising accountable!
- Positioning strategies, brand name and package testing
- Pricing (how to determine the price the market finds acceptable, and is profitable for you)
- How to test sales effectiveness.

Plus! Brand new material on category and store management.

AMR Seminar Outline:
1. Market Research = Power!
2. Your Brand & the Usage, Attitude & Image (UAI) study
3. Psychographics & UAI
4. Product Positioning Research
5. The FGD & Qualitative Research
6. Product Testing
7. Brand Name & Packaging
8. Profitable Pricing Strategies
9. Accountable Advertising
10. Sales Success Research, Benchmarking and Category Management.

The 2006-2007 Marketing Seminar Series of Salt & Light Ventures is presented by Microsoft

"Full of marketing wisdom and wit!" - Binky Bagadion, *Bayantel*

"Value-packed seminar!" - Anne Montalbo, *BPI*

"Dr. Ned's seminar is worth every second and centavo that we invested!" - Rey Ganayo, *JW Thompson*

"By far, the most informative seminar on market research" - Maileen Ifurung, *Wyeth Philippines*

The AMR Seminars: More than 4,500 satisfied 'students' in twenty years of marketing education excellence.

Dr. Ned Roberto's 4th Applied Marketing Research Seminar
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Greening the STAR Tollway

NESTLÉ PHILIPPINES INC. (NPI), IN partnership with Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and the Star Infrastructure Development Corp. (SIDC), launched a tree-growing program on the 42-kilometer STAR Tollway (Southern Tagalog Arterial Road) linking South Luzon Expressway and Batangas. Nestlé operates a factory in Lipa City, Batangas which serves as its Asean Supply Center for breakfast cereals, and also produces Milo and Nescafe in jars.

The program was launched at the Sambat Exit of the STAR Tollway by private and government sector participants led by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Angelo Reyes; NPI Chair and CEO Nandu Nandkishore; Dick Ferrer representing PBSP Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan; PBSP Trustee Marixi R. Prieto, chairperson of the Philippine Daily Inquirer; PBSP Trustee Tammy Lipana, Chairperson of Isla and Lipana, Melissa Aboitiz-Elizalde who represented PBSP Trustee Roberto E. Aboitiz; SIDC President and COO Melvin Nazareno; Batangas provincial government Executive Secretary Sammy Mercado representing Gov. Armando C. Sanchez, and Sambat Barangay Captain Simeon Platon representing Tanauan Mayor Sonia Aquino.

Dubbed "Greening the STAR Tollway," the program aims to grow Jatropha trees on both sides of the tollway in line with the DENR's Green Philippines Highways Campaign, a multi-sectoral effort to plant more than 500,000 seedlings and saplings along the country's major roadways. The importance of growing trees along these roadways had been highlighted, since some 70 percent of local air pollution is attributed to vehicular emissions. According to experts, to counteract current levels of such pollution, each of the owners of the country's 5 million motor vehicles should plant at least 50 trees to absorb carbon dioxide and turn it into oxygen.

Secretary Reyes recognized the private sector's key role in protecting the environment at the launch. "I congratulate private sector groups for getting together, working and staying together towards this end. In the DENR, we only realize too well that we cannot do this job alone. The task is enormous. We need to have the burden shared. We need a common vision and shared responsibility," he said.

Nestlé Philippines Chair and CEO Nandu Nandkishore said that with the cooperation of the SIDC and PBSP, the planting of trees along the entire STAR Tollway is projected to be done by year-end. "We are confident that this project will increase environmental awareness, and inspire others to plant trees and contribute meaningfully in making the Philippines a clean and beautiful place to live in," Nandkishore said. The company's activities are guided globally by the Nestlé Environmental Management System (NEMS), a comprehensive framework that provides procedures and standards for protecting the environment in all business activities. Nestlé's long-standing emphasis on environmental protection, as part of its broader commitment to contribute to the good of communities, plays a central role in its business operations.

As a private sector initiative, Nestlé's "Greening the STAR Tollway" also responds to the call to tap alternative biofuel sources to address the country's dependence on imported fuel. Jatropha is a multi-purpose oil-bearing tree. Jatropha oil can be used as an alternative fuel and is being eyed as a potential source of biodiesel for trucks and cars. The leaves and bark of the tree are also used as an anti-swelling agent for skin irritations and sprains, and as a raw material for making soap and even insecticides.

NPI CHAIR and CEO Nandu Nandkishore poses behind the Jatropha seedling he just planted during the launch of the "Greening the STAR Tollway" program.

China Bank's 9% p.a. home loan rate is still the lowest

China Bank's HomePlus loan rate of 9% p.a. fixed for one year remains the lowest in the industry. Aside from the unbeatable first year fixed rate, the Bank also offers incredibly low fixed rates for longer terms: 10.75% p.a. for the first five years, 11% for the first 10 years, and 11.25% for the first 15 years.

"We want to make it easy and affordable for people to get a HomePlus loan for their dream house, that's why we're offering these rock-bottom rates" shares China Bank Consumer Banking vice president, Lilibeth R. Cariño. "Our low fixed rates for longer terms give our clients peace of mind that their budget will not be adversely affected by future rate fluctuations."

A China Bank HomePlus loan is for the purchase of a lot, a house and lot, a townhouse, or a condominium unit. It is also available for house construction, renovation, or to refinance an existing loan with another bank. Clients can get as much as 80% of the appraised value with flexible terms of up to 25 years.

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Reach out and ask someone

BY NATURE, LEADERS ARE DECISION-makers. The more influential the leader, the more consequential their decisions will be. Leaders are out in front because they have proven their ability to choose the appropriate course of action when faced with big decisions.

However, when a leader begins to rely solely on personal observation and intuition, that leader is headed for trouble.

Even the wisest among us has a limited perspective, and we will miss important decision-making clues if we become entirely self-reliant.

In this edition of A Leader's Way, I am indebted to the brilliant thought of Dr. Saj-nicole A. Joni in her book, The Third Opinion.

An extremely well-written text, The Third Opinion makes the case for the value of outside insight to the performance of a leader. In her book, Dr. Joni identifies four signs that the time is right to consult decision-making advice:

- When multiple decisions need to be made, and you don't have the required amount of time to focus fully on each one.
- When the implications of the decision are far-reaching, and you know your organization will be in serious trouble if you don't do the right thing.
- When you lack the expertise to tackle the issue on your own, regardless of whether you have the time.
- When you are capable of taking action, but you know the decision will be better off if you consult the experiences and insights of someone else.

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

As a leader, once you've determined to seek advice, how do you go about doing it? How can you most effectively glean insights from the thinking of advisors?

To successfully engage others to gain insight requires ...

1. Security of the leader
2. Credibility of the process
3. Quality of the questions
4. Ability of the team
5. Security of the leader

Advice is seldom welcome, and those who need it most like it least—Dr. Samuel Johnson

Leaders can be stubborn when it comes to seeking advice. Insecure leaders who worry about their status, position or power tend to reject the ideas of others, protect their turf and keep people at bay. It takes a secure leader to admit their assumptions may be wrong or to defer to the expertise of another.

Secure leaders routinely practice simple, but essential exercises to benefit from the advice of others. They create an environment where it's safe to voice any opinion, regardless of its popularity. They listen, and they consult others with a genuine desire to learn and to broaden their vision.

Secure leaders are willing to be wrong. They defer to the strength of an idea regardless of who the idea came from. Finally, leaders share the spotlight when a decision is successful and take the blame when it fails. By doing so, they earn the trust of advisors and keep the channels of communication open for future dialogue.

Credibility of the process

"He that is taught only by himself has a fool for a master."—Ben Johnson

The decision-making process unravels when the leader gravitates toward either of two extremes: Refusing everyone's advice or accepting everyone's advice.

Ignoring the advice of others results in a dictatorial leader who is limited by the confines of their own perspective. Accepting all advice leads to paralyzing "group think," devoid of the critical thinking necessary to weed out poor or unrealistic ideas.

A wise leader builds a climate of shared thinking in which all opinions are welcome, but each is closely scrutinized before being accepted. Such a leader buys into the slogan, "none of us is as smart as all of us." Shared thinking sparks innovation by opening multiple avenues for creative ideas rather than locking into ideas in the mind of a single leader.

Shared thinking also gives ideas a chance to mature as they are polished and expanded in the sphere of team discussion.

Quality of the questions

"When you stop wondering, you might as well put your rocker on the front porch and call it a day."—Johnny Carson

Perhaps, the hardest part of leadership is to keep sustained focus on essential topics and data above the urgent, immediate needs. When too much of the workday becomes urgent, leaders are sidetracked from following a central vision and careen aimlessly from crisis to crisis.

Leaders devote their most precious resource—unscheduled time—to the most important issues affecting the organization.

They purposefully reflect and inquire about opportunities that hold the greatest potential to yield highest returns over time. The gravitational force of the workday gives immediate tasks too much pull. In the absence of careful planning, leaders will become starved for time.

Ability of the team

"In seeking someone for advice, one of the biggest temptations is to assume that a person who verbalizes well, also analyzes well. It's not true. Good talkers aren't always good thinkers."—Fred Smith

Wisdom isn't in the multitude of voices—it's in listening to the right one. To maximize the value of shared thinking, leaders place people around the table who bring something to the table.

As you prepare to ask people to participate in shared thinking, use the following criteria for the selection process.

Choose...

People whose greatest desire is the success of the ideas.

People who can add value to another's thoughts.

People who can emotionally handle quick changes in the conversation.

People who appreciate the strengths of others in areas where they are weak.

People who understand their place of value at the table.

People who possess maturity, experience, and success in the issue under discussion.

People who will take ownership and responsibility for decisions.

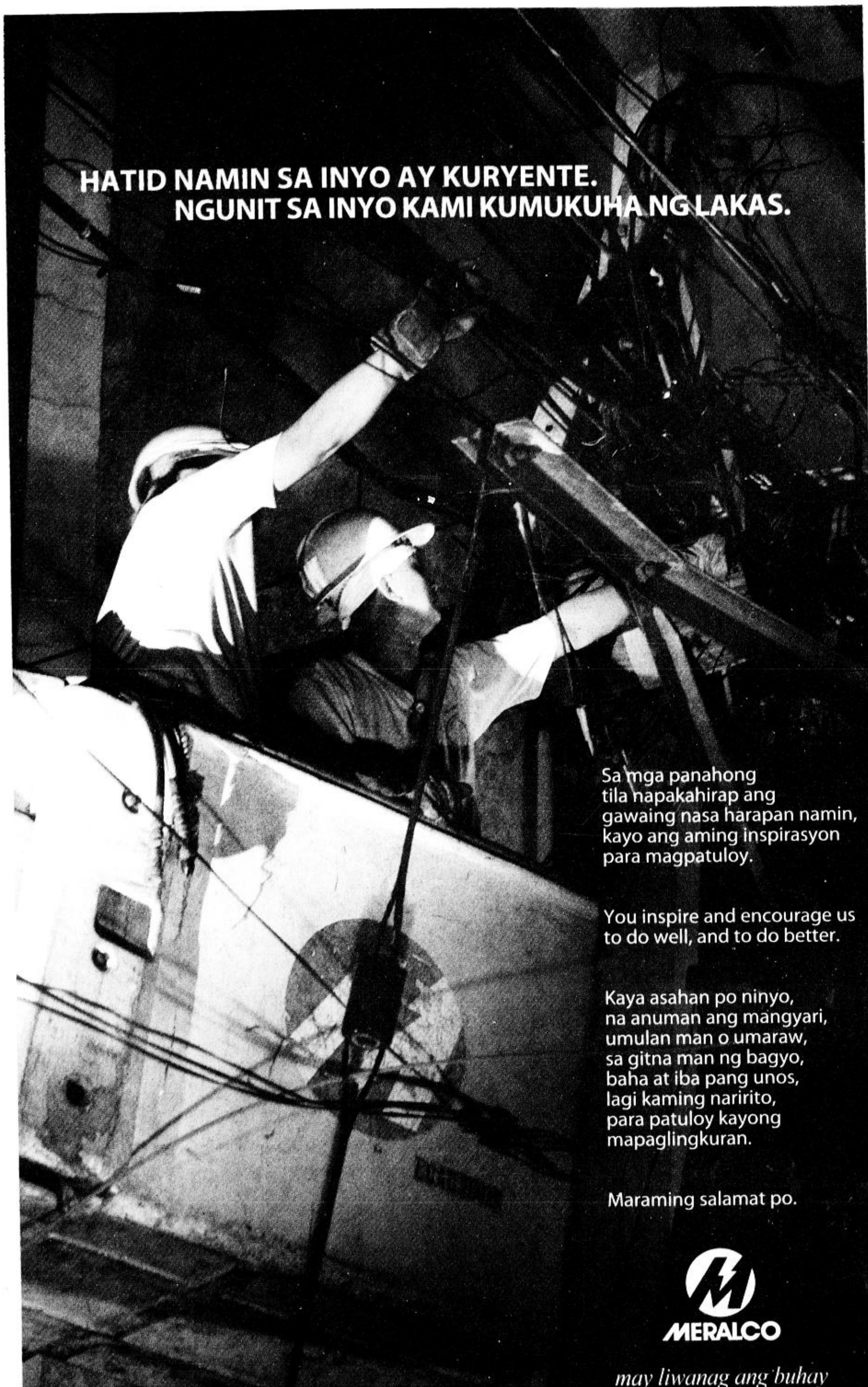
People who will leave the table with a "we" attitude, not a "me" attitude.

Too often, leaders select brainstorming partners based on feelings of camaraderie, circumstances, or convenience. To discover and create ideas of the highest order, the people invited to the table of thought make all the difference.

Let's recap. Leaders remove the lid of limited perspective from their leadership when they consult the insight of others. To successfully engage others to gain insight requires...

1. Security of the leader
2. Credibility of the process
3. Quality of the questions
4. Ability of the team

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2049/2732 and ask for Jesi or Bing. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)



IN THIS ISSUE

Orlina marks 30 years as sculptor /D1

Lindslee, Art Bermido: Top young artists /C2

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso Subsection Editor Lito B. Zulueta

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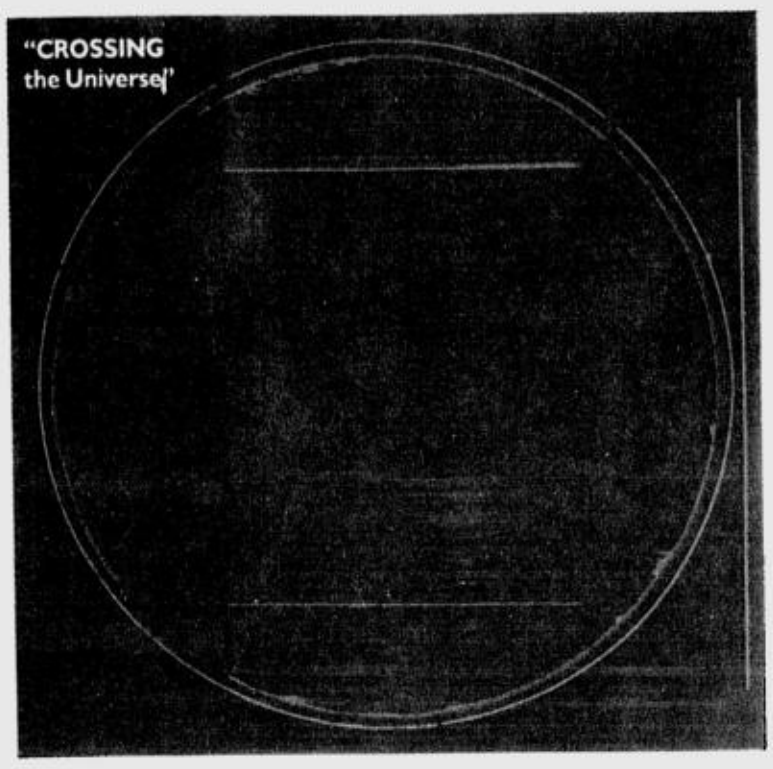
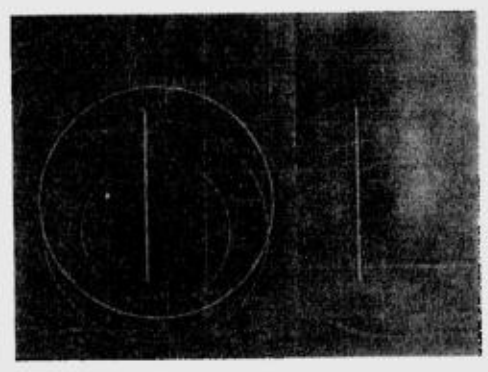
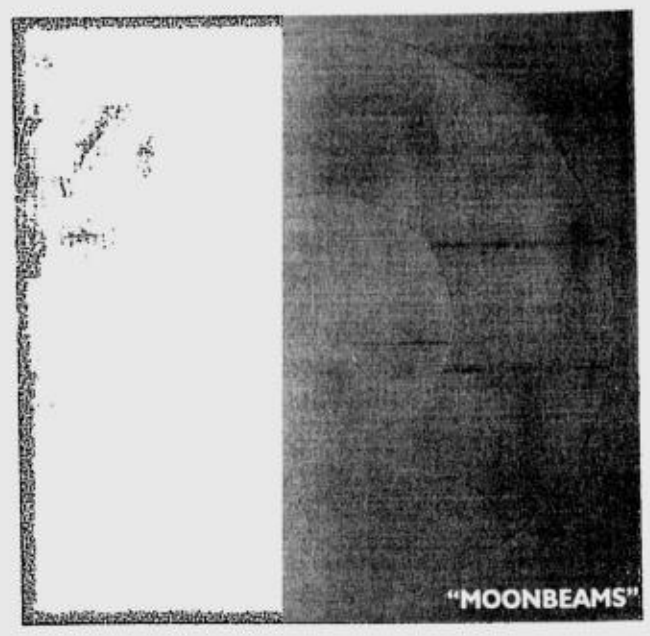
Adventures in abstraction

Autumn bricolage

Hong Kong gets ready for the awesome abstracts of Norberto Carating


"CROSSING the Universe"


"HALF-Awake"


"MOONBEAMS"

By Angelo V. Suárez

NORBERTO CARATING'S hesitation to comment on his work in the upcoming solo show "Autumn Nights" depicts him as a true bricoleur—but of a peculiar sort, one who constructs not with available texts but with available contexts: What is painted is not merely what is perceived but how it is perceived, the environs of the subject, such that he hints almost automatically at the classic McLuhan aphorism "The medium is the message." Ultimately, his form is inseparable from his content, because his form is content.

The linear formations and geometric juxtapositions inscribed upon layers of metallic acrylic give his work a mechanical coldness that reminds one of the Futurist glorification of the machine, of the triumph of Marinetti's roaring motor car over the Victory of Samothrace.

But, contrary to the Futurist ideal, these are machines without movement, peaceful hunks of metal in stasis—a peace-keeping army

AUTUMN/ C2

Fil Delacruz's ethereal but robust art

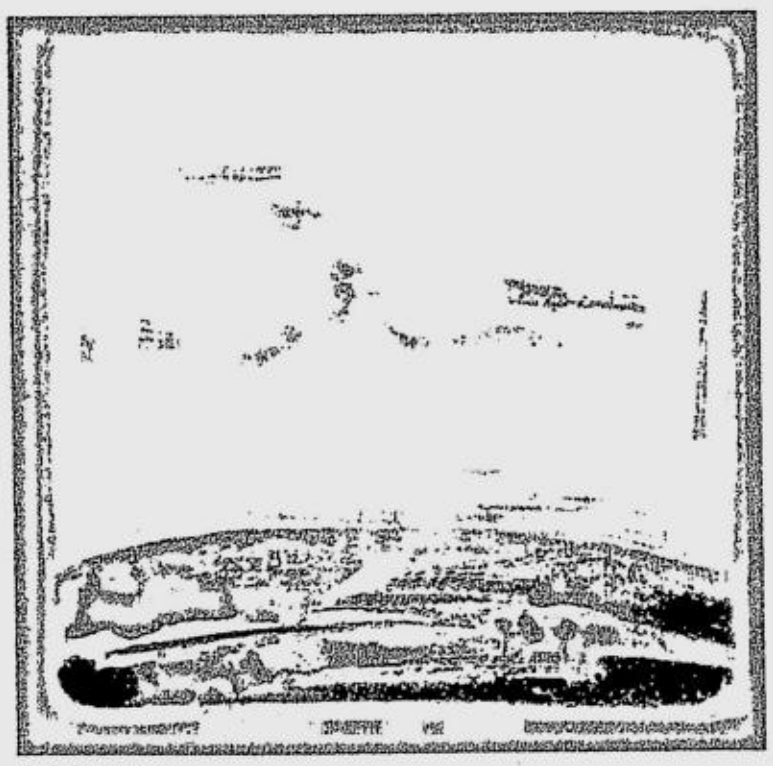
The top artist signals a transition to abstract surrealism

By Lito Zulueta

"SINGAW"

FIL DELACRUZ EXPLORES ABstraction in his new suite of paintings, "Malikmata," which will be exhibited starting Oct. 26 in Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (tel. 8323702). The iconography remains, but the depiction takes a turn for the adventurous and the imponderable.

FIL DELACRUZ/ C2


"ALAPAAP"

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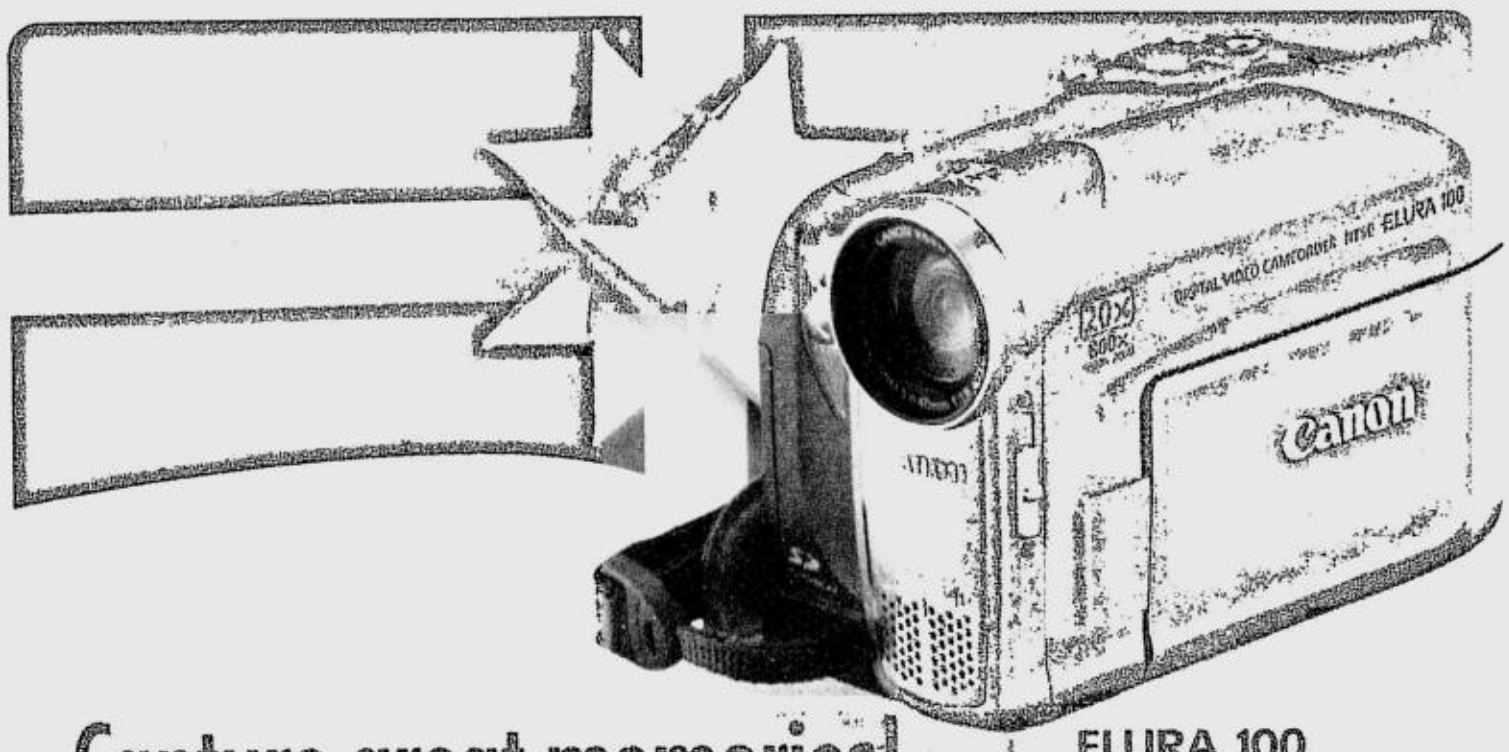

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MICHAEL Cacnio with Araceli Dans

WITH Angel Cacnio

Collaborative show marks Michael Cacnio's 15th year

"ART EXCHANGE" IS A RARE EXHIBITION OF collaborative works in celebration of Michael Cacnio's 15 years as a sculptor.

Sharing their artistry are some of the country's art greats and emergent talents: Gabby Barredo, Elmer Borlongan, Angel Cacnio, Araceli Dans, Romulo Galicano, Emmanuel Garibay, Mark Justiniani, Lao Lianben, Ferdie Montemayor, Ramon Orlina, Benjie Reyes, Farley del Rosario, Rex Tatlonghari and Janice Young.

Also featured are tribute pieces to the late National Artists Ang Kiukok and J. Elizalde Navarro.

"Art Exchange" opens at the Glorietta 4 Art Space, Makati City, 6.pm., on Oct. 24 and will be on view until Oct. 28, after which it transfers to Art Exchange, 3/L, Glorietta 4, and runs until Nov. 7.

The exhibit is assisted by The Artery Manila. Call 7529089.

WITH Angel Cacnio

Rodel Tapaya's 'Mukha'

ATENEO ART AWARDS FINALIST RODEL Tapaya's latest works are presented by Blanc Art Space in the exhibit, "Mukha," which runs Oct. 20-31. The collection depicts the human face and its varied expressions—from soulful and lamenting, doleful and resigned, to sharp with trepidation and speculation and even blankness in stupor. Tapaya departs from his usual acrylic-on-burlap paintings by including smaller works on board.

The artist will soon render illustrations for a children's book published by Canvas and UST Publishing House, the same group that brought the late Romeo Forbes' highly lauded works to print in "Elias and His Trees" and, more recently, Elmer Borlongan's renditions for "The Rocking Horse."

This October, Tapaya is off to Singapore for an exhibit at Utterly Art.

Call or text Blanc Art Space at 0920-9276463.

"ANG Tinderang si Aling Lydia"

"IBARRA"

Adventures in abstraction

Autumn bricolage

From page C1

of robotic Buddhas.

His depiction of the moon—a traditionally feminine icon—is a red, mechanical breast, inorganic beast, swollen prosthesis. How does one account for the convergence of spiritual warmth with the droll exactness of measure? Where do sides figure in a circle? The artist manages this soothing violence of absurd juxtapositions with undeniable grace.

Carating complicates this irony with his use of baking implements in the production of his paintings. While cake is a fluffy substance almost purely reliant on softness to be enjoyed, it is exactly the rigidity of his work that appeals.

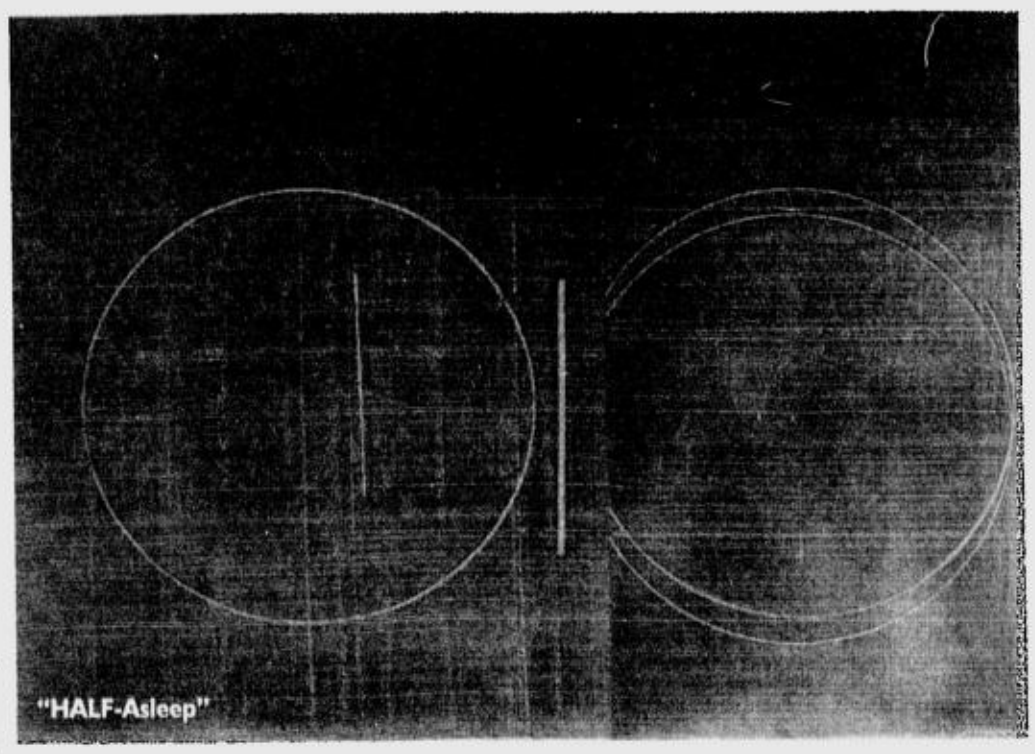
If the artistic process is to be taken as an act of baking, one begins to wonder what bread is, in this sense: Is the very dough of Carating's cake his canvas? But where paint constitutes the painting, it is the icing that constitutes the cake here.

But there is departure from the rigid. Besides the curved strokes and deep blots that shatter the regularity of geometric shapes, the linear and metallic quality of his surfaces brings to mind the roofs of urban shanties and aluminum makeshift homes—a passionate patchwork of paint and iron.

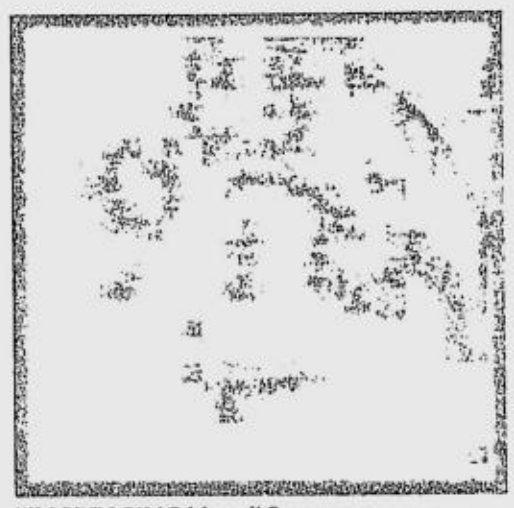
Third World glasses

These abstractions, of course, aren't shaped according to contours that represent Third World squalor, but are nonetheless perceived by eyes through Third World glasses, kneaded with hands too familiar with Third World textures.

"Autumn Nights" is not at all a showcase of the perceived but a confession of perception, of the mediation that takes place in all forms of creation. An object seen by two different people is, in fact, a set of two different objects altogether; when an image presented by Carating is blurred, the blurs do not necessarily come from the objective scene but the subjective looker, or in this case Carating himself—sleepy landscapes seen through sleepy eyes. Form as content: Here we see clearly that the medium truly is the message.



"HALF-Asleep"



"INCREASING Moon" 2

The peak of Carating's ironic imagination reveals itself in geopolitical terms: As if the paintings as cakes as urban shanties weren't violent enough, the artist chooses to label his collection with a foreign, seasonal zing—alas, the Filipino child who cannot eat cake but lives in one now also experiences autumn! But here, autumn as a condition foreign to him can only be experienced at night, in sleep or in those moments immediately preceding sleep: His piece of peace amid pervading poverty.

"Autumn Nights," therefore, is as much a bricolage as the shanties it alludes to, but they are at the opposite ends of a spectrum. While the makeshift home is visibly patchwork, Carating's show is not; the seams show in the former's fragmented body, but in the latter the seams are in the hidden, fractured soul.

Context rather than text—this is what the artist's abstractions bring to the fore. By taking meaning away from the visible, what is visible ironically becomes more meaningful.

Norberto Carating's recent works will be exhibited at the Karin Weber Gallery at 20 Aberdeen Street Central (Hollywood Road Area), Hong Kong. "Autumn Nights" will run on Oct. 26-Nov. 17. Cocktails will be served at the opening.

"TANAWIN"

Fil Delac

"GUIMARAS"

FIL Delacruz with "Aninag"

Normal Lindslee, friendly Bermido

THE YOUNG ABSTRACTIONIST Lindslee continues to show progress in his artmaking with his new show, "Finding Normal," which closes today at the Goethe-Institut Manila (Adamson Centre, 121 L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati; tel. 8170978 or visit www.goethe.de/manila). His latest works in mixed media attempt to define normalcy with the rather predictable paradox that, of course, nothing's truly or permanently normal.

Lindslee is himself the embodiment of that paradox. His full name is Lindsey James Alvarez Lee, which he has truncated to something like an abbreviation and an abstraction. Still a young artist in his late 20s, he has embraced abstraction in the manner of a devotee.

Although he is from Bacolod and has the gentle, endearing traits of the South, he's very cosmopolitan in his artistic sensibilities. He seems to follow after "Sinoy" (Sino-Pinoy) artists, notably Ang Kiukok, who have experimented in one way or another with the abstract idiom despite a certain attachment to the representational. It is difficult to pigeonhole him, though.

The indeterminacy owes to the breadth of his subject matter, which, based on past shows, covers animals, "cause and effect," and "SR," which could be Social Realism (in abstraction!), or, since the works relate to living in the city with its congestion and cacophony, to "standing-room only."

So it's not surprising that he should take on the theme of normalcy—or interpretations thereof—in his new show. After such rather restless takes on existential aberrancy, an artist should settle down in the comforts of home and normalcy.

But one glimpse at the works and one immediately is shocked at a certain abnormality: The works have colors! Of course, the Lindslee we have come to know is the monochromatic fanatic who would rather explore shades of grey rather than check out the colors of the rainbow. So he is entirely out of character in this show.

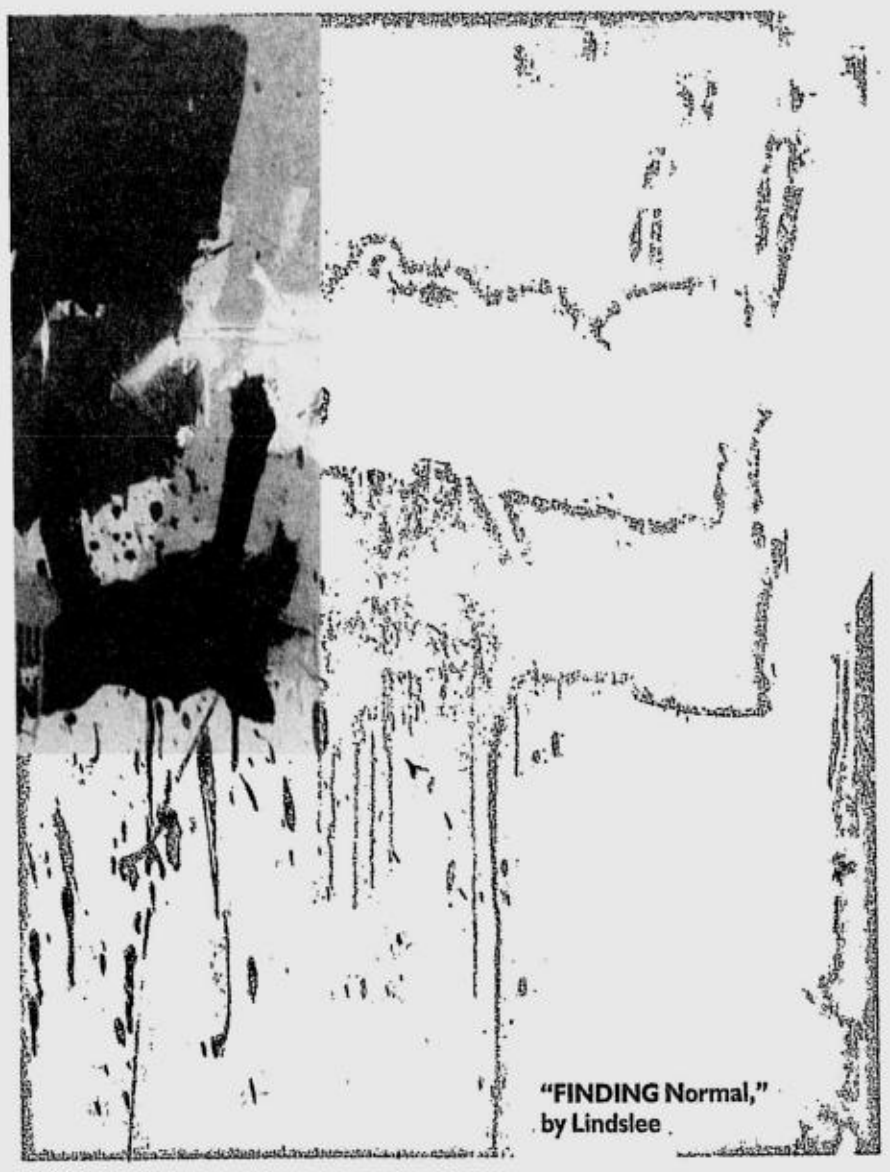
Despite his abnormal color ventures, Lindslee stays normal and predictable in his romance with the palette. The strong colors he introduces to his canvas are red, black and white, with no apologies. The other colors—mocha, faded blue and his favorite gray—are true to form.

The new colors should connote either a new spring or a deepening autumn (or both) in the artist's emotional life. "Mary Go Round" seems a cheerful title for the normally genial but restrained Lindslee. Who's Mary? Is she Lindslee's girlfriend or fling? Never mind.

The painting—a carousel of gray with a fulcrum-pole of black and, on the heart of the pole, a red spot—should make for an intriguing emotional guesswork. It's a happy painting, and also ominously sad.

"Fire on My Tree House" has a huge square of pale sky-blue on its upper half, perhaps to connote the purity of childhood, with an invading red at left, a splatter of black near it, and a whip of white at the center of the blue field. Red may be the flame of desire and the black intrusion the emptiness of carnal pleasures.

Except for blue, roughly the same colors are observable in "Butterfly Effect," except that the landscape is a craggy white with two frosty mocha pillars at the right; on these mocha planes can be seen smudges of black and red. Of course, the smudges represent the "butterfly effect," tiny wings flapping that may cause an aberration in the atmosphere despite their sizes.



"FINDING Normal," by Lindslee

"BUTTERFLY Effect," by Lindslee

"MICHELLE Lim," by Art Bermido

The last painting perhaps best represents the collection. In dealing with the butterfly effect, Lindslee seems to say that nothing's ever normal. The flapping of a butterfly's wings may represent a small change in an otherwise normal situation; but with recurrence and increasing intensity—such as Lindless's rather obsessive and severe brushstrokes in this collection—the wings

"LINDSLEE," by Bermido

"JETHRO Jocson," by Bermido

Two youn
abstractio
the resilie
of the gen

may yet cause a storm. It's no wonder tha
butterfly effect is part of chaos theory. Is Lin
saying that the only normalcy possible is cha

Art Bermido at Astra

Just as devoted to abstraction is Lind
schoolmate from UST, Art Bermido. Both a
are very pleasant in person; and Bermido is
ticularly gregarious.

In previous works, he tackled artistic st
or triggers and embodied them in perso
had met and felt some connection with
these characters were rendered in cha
paintings with the most Zen-like purity s
the representation owed nothing to realis
to psychological epiphany. In fact, the fin
ures appeared like a Rorschach test.

His latest show, "The Red Frame of Con
cy," which will open on Oct. 27 at Galerie
(2/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garc
Makati; tel. 8903988), presents more
same drawings in washed charcoal on a
and aquarelle papers, but with an inter
twist: They are drawings depicting his
artists in what should constitute as an atte
amity and fellowship in a rather competiti
even vicious field.

Bermido's bias for the psychological re
"Philippine art today is severed by an ima
line that divides artists and groups by be
iors," he says in his notes. As a result, "artificiality prevails and sincerity fades, creating a ground for adversaries instead of camaraderie."

So what does he wish to do? "Albeit a neophyte, my experiences subjected me to such stimuli to, if not eradicate, at least minimize this hostile environment," he writes. "Join me in my quest for unity, sincerity and integrity by using red frames so that people will know you are an artist undivided by behaviors."

Therefore, the works framed in red should

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

"KABUTE"

uz's ethereal but robust art

From page C1

The iconography is again consistent with Delacruz's explorations of pantheism, the matriarchal spirit, and the dualism behind nature's most exotic flora and fauna. But what is new here is the drift toward abstraction, which makes the spirits even more ineffable, spectral and mysterious.

In "Alapaap," the canvas is a mistlike quilt of heaven and earth, with the ochre browns predominating, and the heavens even getting sullied by the earthsomeness; thus, there's the same dualism prevalent here in most of Delacruz's works, but with the balance in favor of the new, albeit foul, creation.

"KALIKAL" I

The same undulating haze fills "Amihan," "Habagat" and "Ihip" and other atmospheric works that represent Delacruz's version of the elements and the elemental coming together for the work of creation.

Even "Balon" is not what the title dictates it to be: Rather than a well, it is really the ocean amid the flurry of conception, on the brink of filling the earth.

The bionetwork of new creation is here, and it is represented as spirits in the transition to corporeality so that they look vaporous and even dreamlike.

As expected, in such works as "Kabute," Kalikal," "Singaw," "Tuod," "Tanawin," and "Laguna," Delacruz displays his solid draftsmanship and attention to detail; one could literally feel the vegetation shiver at the passing of the wind. But they seem rendered in an envelope of spray, like the mist clearing from the jungle.

Perhaps the most intriguing of the suite of paintings is Delacruz's rendition of his proverbial *diwata*, which in his iconography may stand for Mother Earth, Eve, the veil of things, even evil and temptation.

"Aninag" and "Bukal" show the sacred feminine barely breaking from the womb of light, and, as in many of his former works, the eyes are hidden or obscured, perhaps to symbolize their original innocence or primitive impenetrability. When the eyes finally open, the ravishing and the rupture begin.

As always, Delacruz exhibits his strong qualities as an artist of first note: Compositional boldness, a formalism that is disciplined but not boring, graphic bravado, and a powerful palette of colors.

In a way, Delacruz's experimentation with abstraction and surrealism is predetermined by the themes he has chosen to distinguish his artmaking. In his studies of the divine element in nature, he plumbs the heart of things, making the earthy ethereal in order to show the spirit that pulses behind the material.

It is surprising how so spiritual an art can find mooring in the graphic, obsessively realistic depiction of nature. But the anchor is really deception, the "Malikmata" of the exhibit's title.

The artist digs deep into the ecology of the cosmos, coming up finally with liquid visions of the spray and the spirit that animate the most solid of reality. Fil Delacruz's art is ultimately robust as it is defiantly spiritual.

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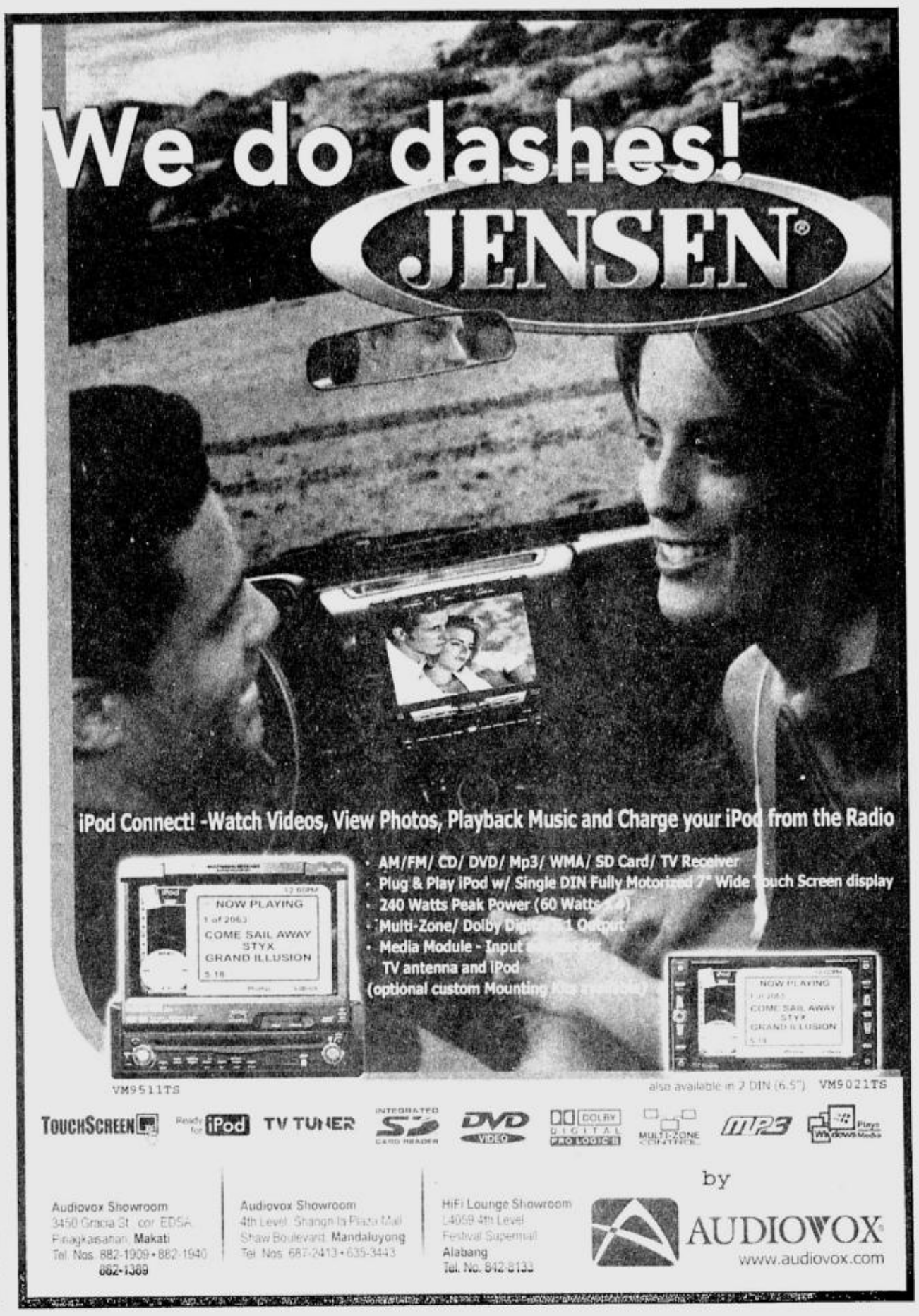
nists show
nce
re

"MARY Go Round," by Lindslee

stimulate fellowship instead of fights. If there's a "conspiracy," it's a conspiracy of pals. And, indeed, Bermido seems delighted to draw "portraits" of his friends—Lindslee, Bobby Nuestro, Jojo Lofranco, Michelle Lim—if not take potshots at them.

He has infused his art with light-heartedness and easy company so that the works tingle with a certain freshness, a certain friendliness. It's what one may call "*amigo* abstraction." *Lito B. Zulueta*



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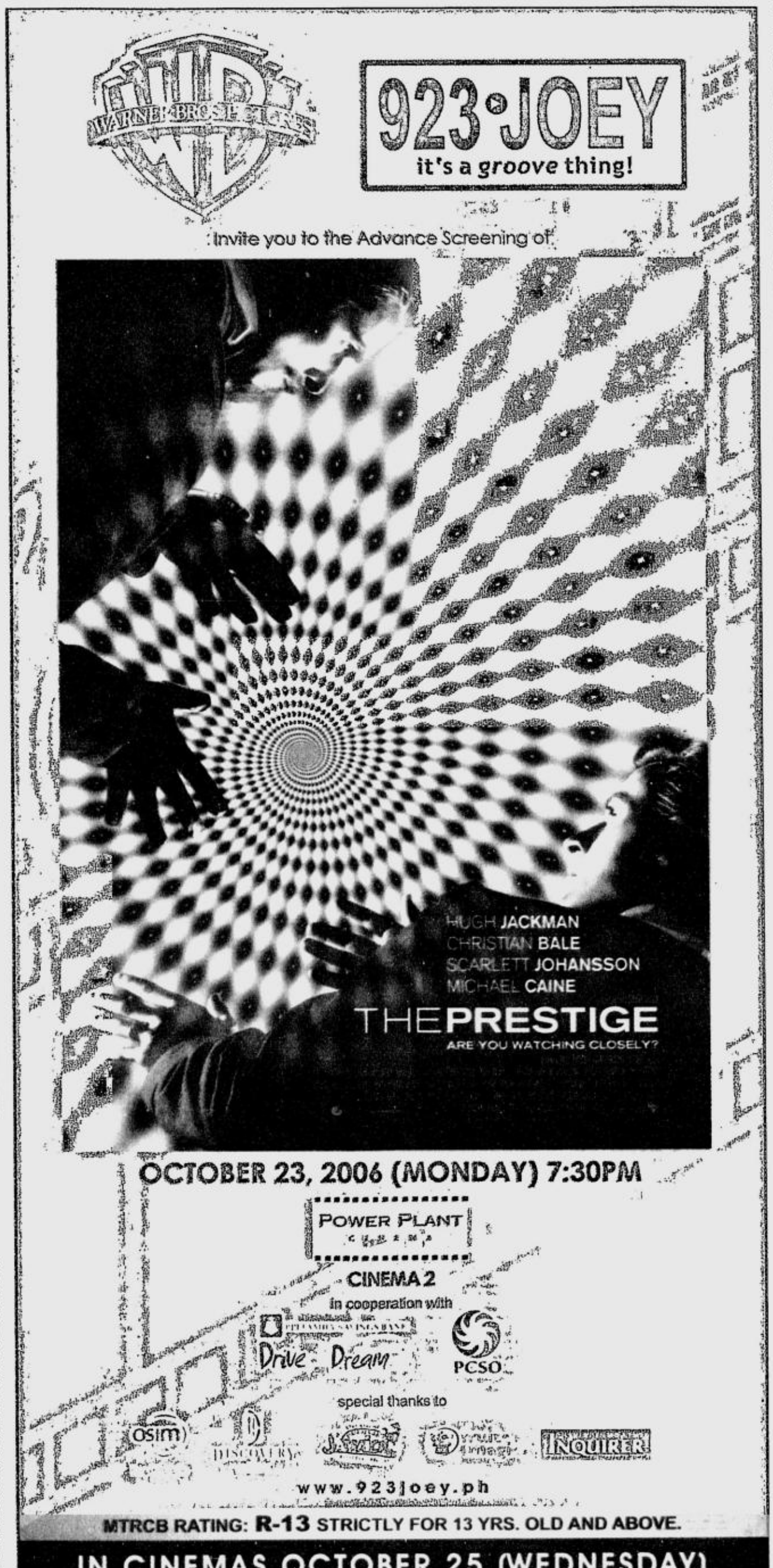
"BANAHAW" triptych

"SAPA to Banahaw"

THE ARTIST with his sister Emily Abrera

Painter's homecoming show

Johnny Altomonte, 56, a product of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts and a resident of Australia for more than 25 years, holds his homecoming show, 'Sacred Spaces,' at Art Space, Glorietta 4, Makati City, until Oct. 26.



Borlongan studies at 1/of

ELMER BORLONgan's studies for the children's book, "The Rocking Horse," a collaboration between Borlongan and writer Becky Bravo, are on exhibit at 1/of Gallery, 2/L, Shops at Serendra, Taguig.

The book, co-published by Canvas and the UST Publishing House, is based on a Borlongan painting. For the story, the artist created a suite of paintings that were snapped by collectors early this year. The studies are now on exhibit and limited print copies of the paintings are on sale.

Visit www.canvas.ph or e-mail info@canvas.ph

"MEMORIES"

Otoniel Gonzaga in concert

"ADESTE FIDELES," a Christmas concert, will be presented Dec. 14 by the Management Association of the Philippines and the Santuario de San Antonio Parish at the Santuario church in Forbes Park, Makati City.

The program will feature world-acclaimed tenor Otoniel Gonzaga, as well as tenors Frankie Aseniero and George Yang, and sopranos Rachelle Gerodias, Camille Lopez and Karla Gutierrez.

Call 7511149 or 7511152.

MONDAY,
OCTOBER 23, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

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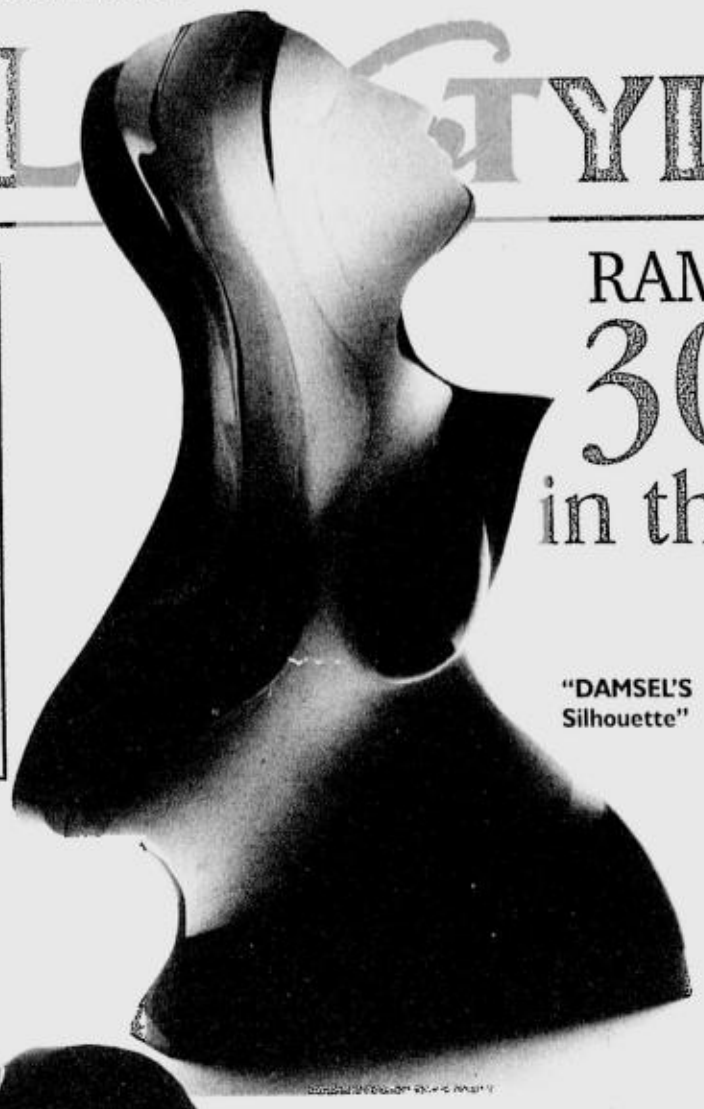
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

RAMON Orlina with model for 8.6-meter "Tetraglobal," for UST's quadricentennial in 2011



"DAMSEL'S Silhouette"

"INFINITY" 2

RAMON ORLINA

30 years in the embrace of light

"COSMOS - 06"

By Lito Zulueta

'Quintessence,' which opens Thursday, sums up the achievements of the Master of Lux

IT HAS BEEN 30 YEARS SINCE Ramon Orlina, leaving his architecture practice in 1974 and turning to the visual arts full time, found splendor in the glass. He tinkered first with painting but later on stumbled upon sculpture.

It was not really a radical shift since his architecture training at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) and his own practice had made him predisposed to the tactile and architectonic dimensions of sculpture. But as the story went, there were sculptors and sculptors. How could a neophyte carve his own niche in such a crowded galaxy?

Of course, we know what happened. In 1976, Orlina found the light! Used to manipulating space as an architect, he turned to glass sculpture as a way to maneuver light, the progenitor of space.

Aside from his architecture background, the choice of medium owed to his innate artistic sensibilities. After all, the best painting is a play of light and shadows, and glass, with its inherent qualities of reflection and refraction, is a medium that has the best potential to play tricks at the space around it, casting it in a new light.

Of course, Orlina was also breaking new ground. Although glass is an old medium, he did new things with it that stamped his name on the genre.

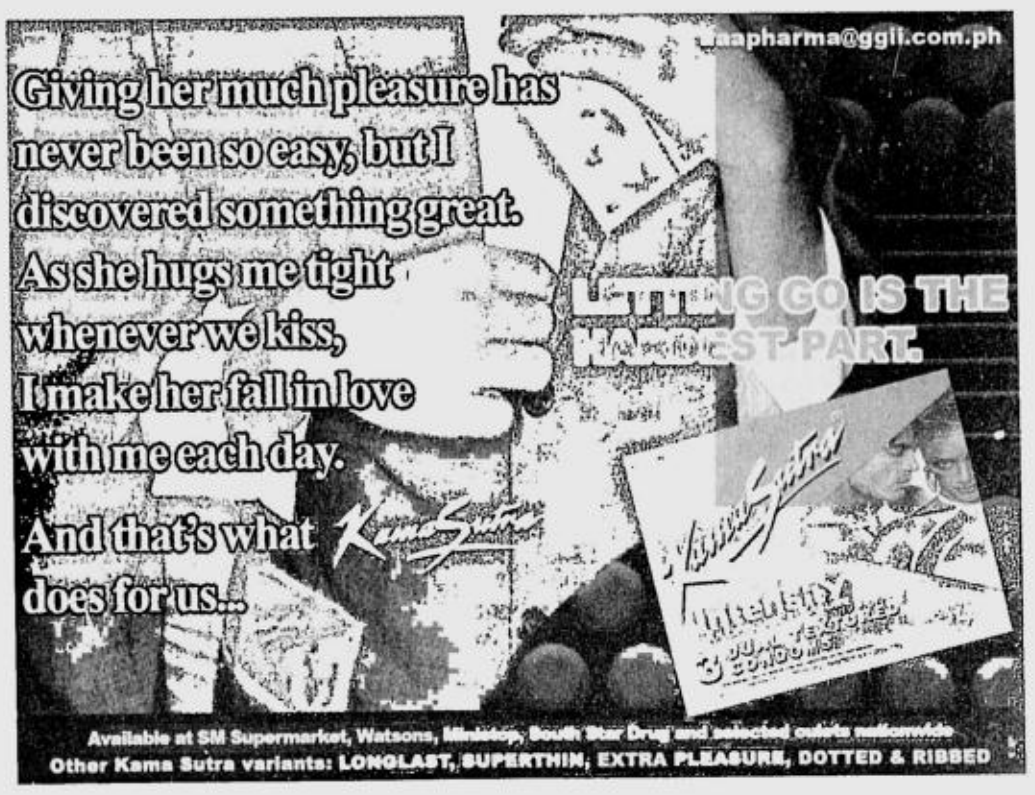
While glass is blown into shape when it is hot and malleable, Orlina molds glass like a sculptor would, grinding and shaping it into abstract forms that assume organic integrity through sharp bends and sleek curves. The work is no joke since he massages glass into shape, making them animate light.

The light is manipulated or trapped in such a way as to provide "value lighting" to the contours and outlines that are defined by the sculptor's kneading. The result is art that transfixes, that mesmerizes.

Orlina is one of our most adamant practitioners of recycled art. Since the start, he had formed a partnership with Republic Glass (and now, with Asahi Glass) to clean their factory of accumulated glass droppings on the floor. Known as cullets, the large blocks of glass come in various shapes and configurations, and it is Orlina's artist's eye and architect's discipline that reconceive and reconstitute the raw throwaways into monuments of light.

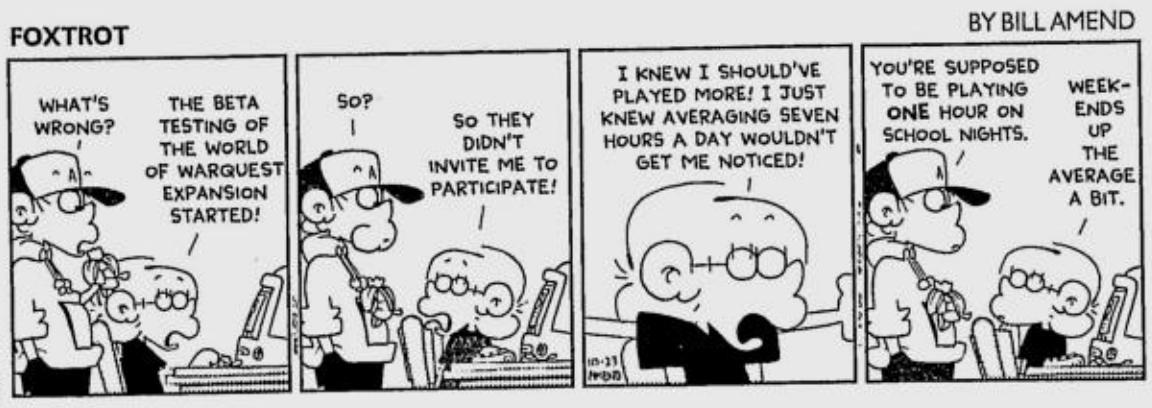
It is also an art that is multidimensional, a quality that is again the outgrowth of "light play." The sculptures can be viewed in the front or

30 YEARS/ D3



FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

AVAILABLE NA RIN ANG DIVINE COMEDY COMICS SA NATIONAL BOOKSTORE AT PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE

KIKO MACHINE

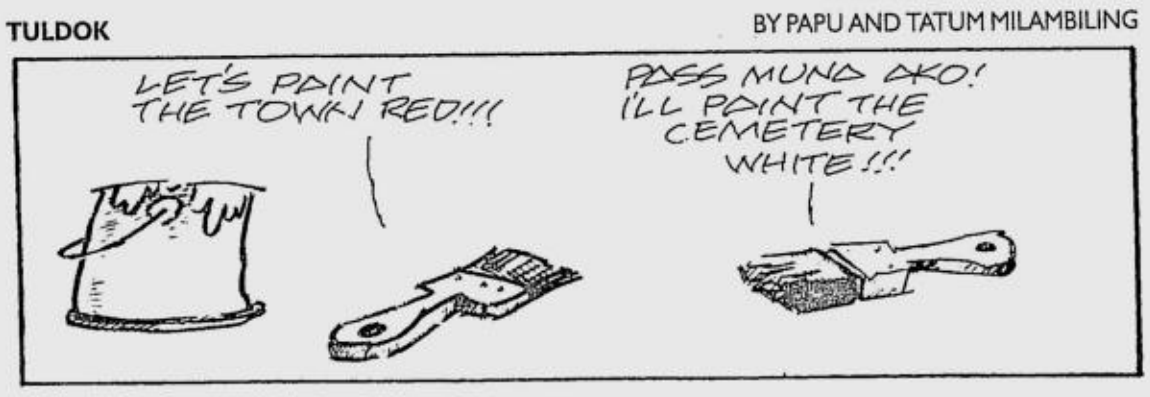
BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK

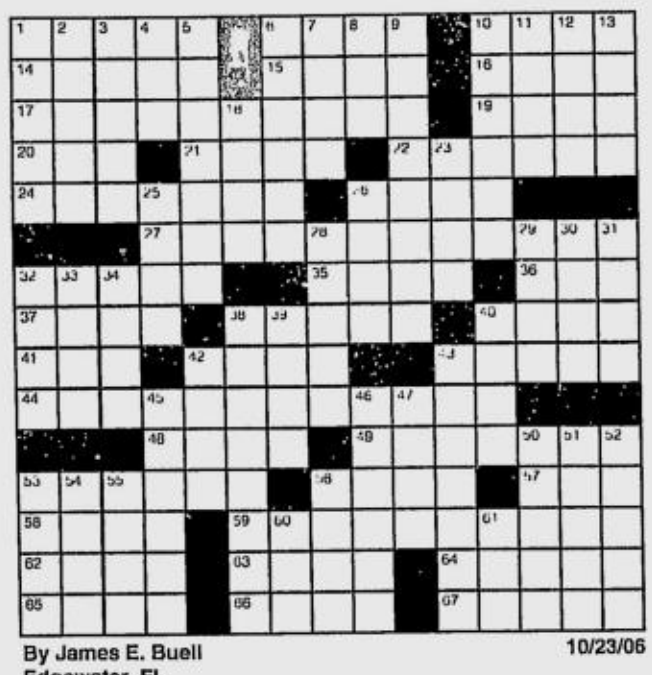
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

10/23/06

ACROSS
1 Indian rulers
6 Minor tender in India
10 Outer banana
14 Appliance brand
15 Skywalker's sister
16 Make over
17 Swap stories
19 Cogito-sum link
20 Meteor tail?
21 Trig function
22 Four-time Indy 500 winner
24 Repudiates
26 Between ports
27 Swap stories
32 Where the Salmon runs
35 Skirt ring
36 Hall-of-Famer Traynor
37 __ Hari
38 Ratify
40 Old capital of West Germany
41 Fuss
42 Boater's walkway
43 Dog treats, often
44 Swap stories
48 "__ Lang Syne"
49 Formless seat
53 S.O.S. rival
56 Fibber
57 Spanish cheer
58 Banjoist Scruggs
59 Swap stories
62 A&P competitor
63 Polynesian beverage
64 Ill-equipped
65 Vegan's no-no
66 Leg part
67 Black-footed albatross

DOWN
1 Fanatical
2 Famed violin maker
3 Austen and Alexander
4 Moreover
5 You and what army?
6 King in "The Tempest"
7 No more than
8 Lend support
9 Could succeed
10 Ready-made
11 Architect Saarinen
12 On pins and needles
13 Pirate's take
18 Skid row bum
23 Rugged vehicle
25 Workplace watchdog org.
26 Resting on
28 Androcles' extraction
29 On top of
30 Queue
31 Eye part
32 Apple PC
33 Woodworking channel
34 Molecule part
38 Pump intake stoppages
39 Legal title
40 Deck officer, briefly
42 Beatles bassist
43 Tight embrace
45 Straw bed
46 Luke's Jedi mentor
47 Manilla
50 Very successful
51 Author Lesage
52 J. Paul __
53 Smile broadly
54 Track event
55 Author Rombauer
56 First name in jeans
60 So there!
61 Rock producer Brian

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

I	N	D	E	L	I	C	A	T	E	■	H	E	R	E
M	A	U	R	I	T	A	N	I	A	■	A	V	E	S
A	M	E	N	C	O	R	N	E	R	■	S	I	M	P
G	E	N	I	F	■	M	I	S	L	E	A	D	E	R
E	R	N	E	■	E	E	K	■	E	T	H	E	N	E
S	S	A	■	U	L	N	A	R	■	S	E	N	D	S
■	■	C	S	A	■	S	E	P	■	A	C	E	S	■
S	T	R	E	E	T	S	O	F	L	A	R	E	D	O
C	H	E	T	■	E	R	R	■	A	R	T	■	■	■
R	E	G	A	N	■	A	E	R	I	E	■	P	V	T
A	B	A	C	U	S	■	N	E	D	■	G	L	E	E
P	R	I	E	S	T	E	S	S	■	A	L	A	T	E
P	I	N	A	■	A	N	T	I	P	R	O	T	O	N
E	D	E	N	■	S	T	A	L	E	M	A	T	E	S
R	E	D	S	■	H	O	M	E	R	E	M	E	D	Y

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10/23/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have enormous energy. (You do so much!) You're youthful, energetic, lively and passionate. You often go overboard in some area of your life (work, play or a hobby). Because of your charismatic personality, you work well with groups. You love adventure and challenges. A significant change might take place this year, perhaps similar to that of 1997.

Birthdate of: Pele, Brazilian soccer legend; Johnny Carson, TV host; Masiela Lusha, actress/author

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your ability to do research is absolutely excellent today. If there's anything you want to know about or discover, you will succeed in finding it. (You'll look under every rock.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is not a good day for discussions with partners and close friends. People are inclined to be critical of each other today. (This only promotes a downer feeling.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your critical faculties are very sharp today. You'll be able to tackle any job that requires attention to detail. You also have long periods of concentration today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Any artistic project or arts-and-crafts project can go very well today. You have a patient mind and a willingness to pay attention to tasks that require persistence and attention to detail.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a good day for home repairs. Work around the house to make improvements. However, family discussions might be too negative. Be tolerant of and patient with others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's OK to withdraw from others today. That's just how you feel. However, this is a good day to sign contracts and look over the legal aspects of anything. You won't miss a thing!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You feel prudent and financially cautious today. You don't want to blow your money on anything frivolous. (That's OK.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You'll have no trouble doing heavy mental work today. Your thinking is very disciplined right now. Take care that you don't look at issues with a negative frame of mind.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Work alone today. Your research skills are tops. Ignore negative comments from others, especially if they confirm your worst fears about yourself. (They're not true!)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Someone older might give you excellent advice today. Be open to this. On the other hand, if someone older criticizes you, it doesn't mean he or she knows everything.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Many people feel lonely today. You might have to say goodbye to someone now. This is a temporary dark cloud on your horizon. (It's gone quickly.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If you have to study any kind of lofty subject or plow through details related to religion, politics and history, you'll be able to accomplish a lot. You have strong mental energy today.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

			2		4			
	4	2	5		6	3	1	
	6	5				4	9	
4	3			7			6	9
			3		8			
1	5			4			3	8
	7	1				9	8	
	2	4	8		5	1	7	
			9		7			

Difficulty Level ★

10/23

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	2	9	1	5	8	7	4	3
5	4	7	9	3	2	6	8	1
1	3	8	4	6	7	5	9	2
8	5	3	2	1	4	9	6	7
2	7	4	6	9	3	8	1	5
9	6	1	7	8	5	3	2	4
3	8	2	5	4	6	1	7	9
7	9	5	8	2	1	4	3	6
4	1	6	3	7	9	2	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

30 years in the embrace of light

"SAPPHIRE Ring"

From page D1

the back or whatever position. The light ensures whatever part the viewer chooses to see seems spot-lit.

Orlina also relieves the pure abstraction by figurative etches while leaving most of the parts polished, smooth and seemingly inviolable. The pristine quality masks the obsessive handling and carving that have rendered the work into an altar of grace and impenetrability.

But the fact that Orlina is an architect and a craftsman and he has an army of artisans and workers (who transform into a basketball team and cheering squad during the summer league in Sampaloc, Manila, believe me) should remind the audience that a thing of beauty is also a thing of hard industry and dedicated artistry.

"DIAMOND Sky"

Glass master

Because he has made his unique brand of glass sculpture his own, Orlina is perhaps one of the best-known Filipino artists abroad, the "glass master" if there was one. He has been carried by prestigious galleries in the West and gotten commissions abroad.

"Quintessence," the title of his forthcoming anniversary show at the Ayala Museum, is originally the title of his glass-window installation that is the centerpiece of the Singapore Art Museum. At the turn of the millennium, he won the "Mr. F Prize" in the 1999 Toyamura International Sculpture Biennale in Hokkaido, and the following year, the first prize in the sculpture category of the Biennale of Basketball in the Fine Arts in Madrid.

For his anniversary show, Orlina promises more of the same and more. The exquisite gossamer shapes remain, but the artist appears more venturesome in colors.

"Damsel's Silhouette" is bronze, and in a number of crucial pieces—"Sapphire Ring," "Rising Amber" and "Diamond Sky"—Swarovski crystals in liquid colors are sculpted in piercing and acute forms. Other works combine glass and steel.

The exhibit will also present studies and the model for Orlina's most important commission of late, "Tetraglobal," an 8.6-meter sculpture in bronze and glass that will soon rise at Orlina's alma mater, in the run-up to 2011 when UST marks its 400th year as Asia's oldest university.

The commission reflects Orlina's achievement as much as it does UST's. Orlina has gone global with his experiments and accomplishments in light, and whatever the vagary of history, the light, like the art, endures.

"RISING Amber"

"Quintessence," which marks Ramon Orlina's 30 years in sculpture, opens Oct. 25, 6 p.m., at the Glass Wing of the Ayala Museum, Makati

2006 Toyota Classics in Manila

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES CORP. is staging the 2006 Toyota Classics at Cultural Center of the Philippines Oct. 24.

This year, the Toyota Classics will feature the world-renowned Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Tatsuya Shimono, with Japanese flutist Ayako Takagi and Filipino pianist Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz. Ticket proceeds of this year's concert will go to the National Center for Transportation Studies of the University of the Philippines. This is the Toyota Classics' way of celebrating the 50th anniversary of Philippines-Japan diplomatic relations.

Takagi is among Japan's most sought-after young flutists, thanks to an attractive combination of technique and style that has won her an enthusiastic following. Her numerous awards include grand prizes at the 17th Japan Winds Competition (2000) and the 70th Japan Music Competition (2001), as well as the Nippon Steel Music Award (2001).

Other awards she received include the Mainichi Shimbun All-Japan Student Music Competition of Tokyo (1st prize, 1995), the Japan Flute Convention Competition (1st prize and audience award, 1999), the Kobe International Flute Competition (3rd prize, 2005) and the Jean-Pierre Rampal International Flute Competition.

Cruz is the most internationally awarded Filipino concert pianist. He was a prizewinner in the Jose Iturbi (Valencia), the Pilar Bayona (Zaragoza), the Maria Canals (Barcelona) and the Jaen International Piano Competitions in Spain; the Frinna Awerbuch International Piano Competition in New York; the Rina Sala Gallo International Piano Competition in Milan; and the International Competition for Piano and Orchestra in Sicily.

He also won first prize in the Bergen Philharmonic Solo Competition, the Haddonfield Symphony Solo Competition, the Queens Symphony Soloist Competition, the New York State Music Teachers Association, and the Five Towns, Great Neck and Port Washington Piano Competitions.

Japanese comic play at PCIBank Tower

"YAJI and Kita" is a stage adaptation of a comic book written by Kotobuki Shiriagari.

TO CELEBRATE PHILIPPINES-JAPAN Friendship Year, the Japan Foundation Manila, in cooperation with the MCO Foundation and Equitable PCIBank, presents "Yaji and Kita," a stage adaptation of a comic book titled "Mr. Yaji and Mr. Kita in Deep," written by Kotobuki Shiriagari.

The work is taken from one of the most important pieces of Japanese classic literature, "Tokai Dochu Hizakurige," which was written by Juppensha Ikku approximately 200 years ago (in the late Edo era).

The main characters, Yaji and Kita, leave Edo to visit Ise Shrine, hoping to find something real in their world. When it begins to rain, they stop at a small inn. As the persistent rain lasts for days, endless ideas start to fill their minds and they waver between fantasy and reality. As time and space get entangled in their reverie, Yaji and Kita become unsure of whether they had left Edo or not, and their nightmares unfold with humor and absurdity.

"Yaji and Kita" is written and directed by Tengai Amano and produced by the Kudan Project. It will have performances at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCIBank Tower I, Makati Avenue cor. HV dela Costa Street, Makati City, Oct. 27-28 at 7:30 p.m., and Oct. 29 at 3 p.m. Admission is free.

Group reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 8116155-58.

October book club reads

THE POWER BOOK CLUB TACKLES two novels from both ends of the literary spectrum this October: best-selling author Plum Sykes' "The Debutante Divorcee," and award-winning author Haruki Murakami's "Blind Willow Sleeping Woman."

Sykes hit it big in 2004 with "Bergdorf Blondes," a novel that introduced readers to the glamorous world of the Manhattan Princesses. Sykes is bringing the fabulous girls back with "The Debutante Divorcee," a novel that promises to be every bit as beloved as her smash debut.

Following the best-selling triumph of "Kafka on the Shore" comes a collection that generously expresses Murakami's mastery.

In "Blind Willow Sleeping Woman," Murakami presents 25 short works that go from the surreal to the mundane.

The Power Book Club will discuss "The Debutante Divorcee" Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m., at PowerBooks Greenbelt, and "Blind Willow Sleeping Woman" Oct. 25, 6:30 p.m., at PowerBooks Megamall.

The Power Book Club is open to everyone. Simply register at the Customer Service counter of any PowerBooks branch and get 10 percent off the featured book. Powercard Plus holders who sign up get 20 percent off! Plus, the first 16 registrants get a free cup of coffee from the Java Man.

PowerBooks has branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428-29), Megamall (6352898-99), Alabang Town Center (8505662-63), Glorietta 3 (7527067), Shangri-La (6380024), Robinson's Place Ermita (5233334), and Mall of Asia (5560244).

New book of humor essays

MILFLORES PUBLISHING Inc. has released "The King of Nothing to Do: Essays on Nothing and Everything" by Luis Joaquin M. Katigbak.

This first collection of essays is comprised of short, fast-paced pieces that are suffused throughout with Katigbak's droll, ironic and, at times, hilarious humor that will often take the reader by surprise. There are also gems of profound and lucid insights that the author claims, in irony, happened despite his best efforts.

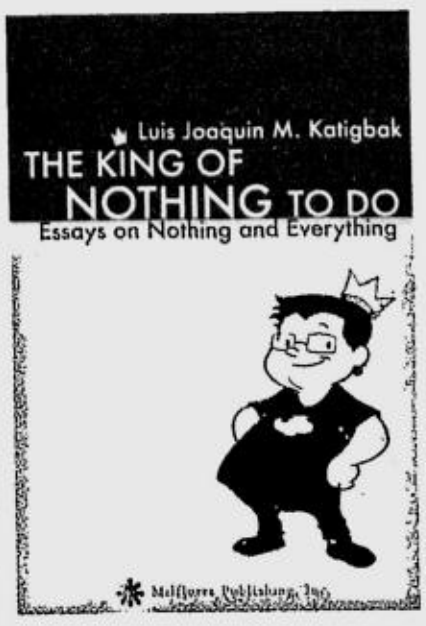
The book's title comes from Katigbak's current column in the Manila Bulletin's i section, which he describes as "a pleasant ongoing conversation about such things as writing books, music, films and pop culture—except I do all the talking." If, indeed, this book is a conversation with the reader, then it is an unfailingly pleasant and entertaining one with a brilliant young mind who is one of the best writers of his generation.

Katigbak has won Palanca and Philippine Graphic awards for his short fiction. His collection of short stories, "Happy Endings," was nominated for a Manila Critics Circle National Book Award.

The cover design and illustrations of the book were done by Elbert Or and the book design was by Zenaida N. Ebalan.

"The King of Nothing to Do" is available at all National Book Stores, PowerBooks, Books for Less and other major bookstores at P350 per copy.

Call 7216431 or e-mail milflores@pacific.net.ph.



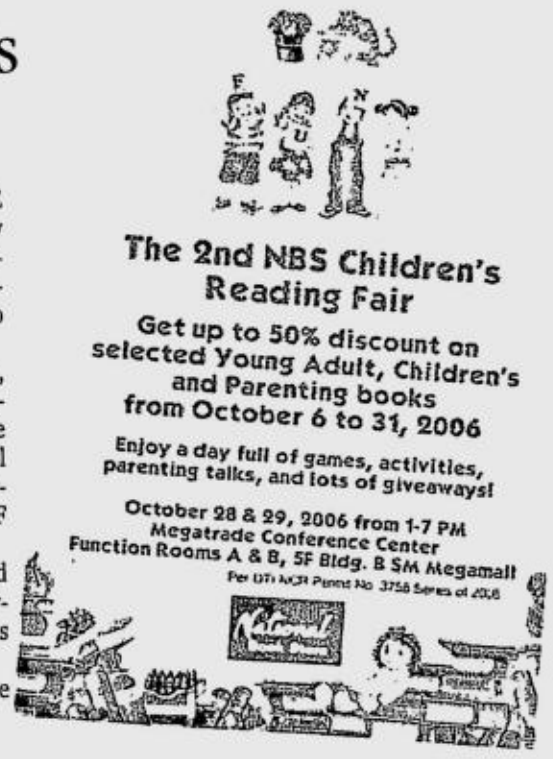
Second children's reading fair

THIS OCTOBER, NATIONAL BOOK STORE is celebrating Children's Reading Month by offering up to 50-percent discounts on selected Children's, Young Adult and Parenting titles in all branches nationwide. Promo runs Oct. 6-31.

Every P500 purchase of any Children's, Young Adult and/or Parenting book will entitle the customer to one entry pass to the 2nd NBS Children's Reading Fair, which will be held Oct. 28-29 at the Megatrade Conference Center Function Rooms A & B, 5/F Building B of SM Megamall.

This is a weekend devoted to children and parents, where they can participate in different activities, listen to storytelling sessions and attend parenting seminars for free.

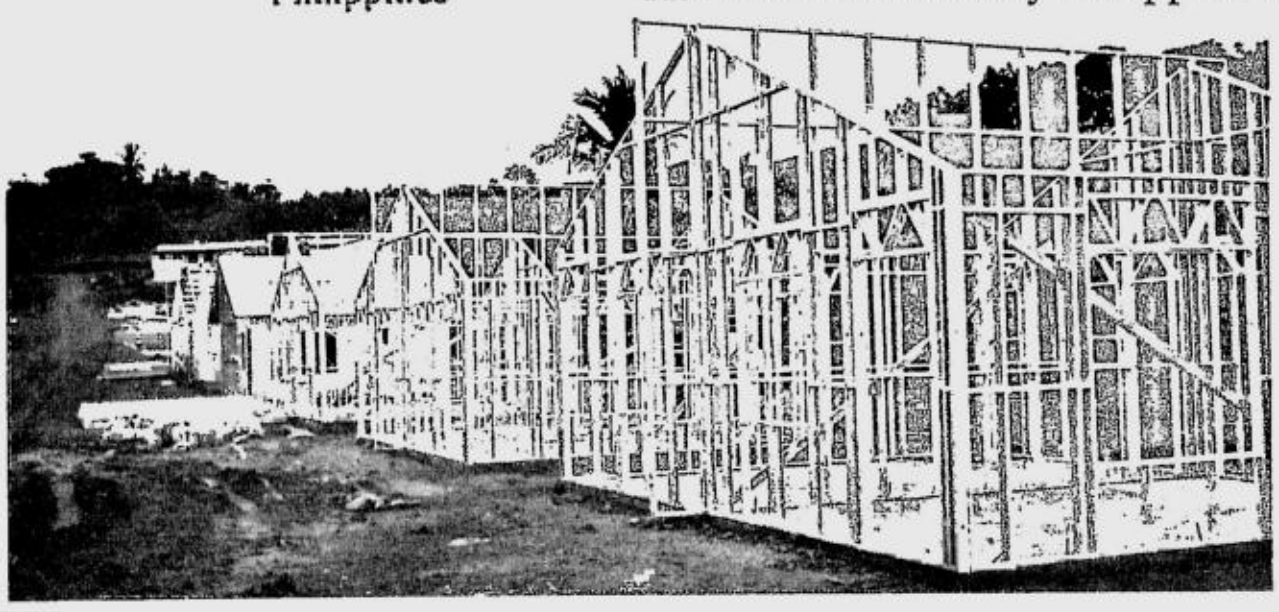
Come in your best costume for a chance to win a special prize!



Habitat for Humanity® Philippines

The journey continues

Habitat for Humanity Philippines aims to build 50,000 more homes in the next five years



By Marlet D. Salazar

Paving the road to more initiatives in helping the underprivileged and homeless Filipinos, Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP) is gearing up to building more homes and rebuilding more lives.

Setting its sights on eliminating poverty housing and homelessness, HFHP has always adhered to providing "decent, durable, efficient, and affordable" homes.

Alberto Jugo, president and CEO of HFHP, said: "We want to jumpstart our capacity to eventually building 10,000 homes a year." Within 5 years, there should be 50,000 more houses adding to the 15,000 built in the past.

"It's not much considering that millions of Filipinos still need decent homes," he said. "We just have to do what we can and we're hoping more people and organizations will be doing the same thing."

HFHP has undergone a strategic transformation the past two years. With the desire to further jumpstart the housing projects, it expanded its alliances with other organizations of similar objectives and adopted housing technologies to speed up and cut down the costs of building homes.

As a non-profit ecumenical Christian housing ministry, HFHP does not limit its mission to helping the poor find decent and affordable shelter. They are resolved to inculcate values education among the communities it is devoted to assist.

Sustainability

"We're not just a housing organization," said Erlynn Campos, a member of the National Board of Trustees.

The prospective homeowners are selected based on their level of need and the ability to pay the loan. But the most important thing that they look for is the willingness to partner with Habitat, said Campos.

Recipients can truly claim ownership of their house because they pay for the house in 10 to 15 year terms, and they actually help build it in the form of sweat equity which ranges anywhere from 400 to 600 hours.

"One-third of the cost of the house is to be raised by the homepartner, the other one-third is raised locally, and the remaining one-third is raised from the international community," said Jugo.

The amortization paid by homeowners is then used to fund another house. This goes to a revolving fund called the Fund for Humanity.

"We do really have good financial stewardship for our funds," he said. To ensure this, the Fund for Humanity is deposited in a trustee bank and the whole organization undergoes an external annual audit.

The capability of the homeowners to pay is determined by a family selection committee composed of Habitat affiliates, partnered organizations and sometimes includes a representative of the urban-poor organization that has partnered with Habitat to build homes.

Technology innovation

Jugo believes that what distinguishes HFHP from other organizations is its continuous pursuit for better ways to build more homes and sheltering more families in the process.

"We can upscale our capacity because we focus on using the appropriate technology," he said.

HFHP uses alternative construction materials and methods. The use of concrete interlocking blocks (CIB) and interlocking compressed earth blocks (iCEB) actually save a lot more time and money.

The other method is the use of steel frames, a world-class technology from New Zealand.

But the savings does not mean the quality of the houses is compromised. These methods and materials proved to be durable and more importantly, easier to handle among volunteers who don't have any background in construction.

The houses

Different locations have different needs. HFHP is transforming lives nationwide. It has helped build houses for the urban poor as well as the rural folks.

From the most common single-detached homes, HFHP also built duplex-type houses in Rizal.

In 2004, the housing ministry helped relocate the 427 families along the railroad tracks of Muntinlupa to Rizal by helping build rowhouses together with the Muntinlupa Development Foundation, which had obtained a grant from the Japanese government through the Asian Development Bank. The fire-prone area of Baseco also saw the rise of more rowhouses which were built by Habitat and its partners.

Recently, it built several medium-rise buildings in Taguig with a grant from the European Commission as a practical solution for the lack of lots or space in the urban areas. This has led to a new MRB project, this time proposed by Mayor Freddie Tinga of Taguig, called Family Town Homes, which will also be built by Habitat at the Food Terminal compound. It will give home to an initial batch of 108 families.

Partnerships

HFHP is continually forming alliances with different organizations, foundations, government agencies, and private corporations to expedite its projects.

It is currently focusing on several new projects.

About 346 families will benefit from the housing project by HFHP and St. Hannibal Empowerment Center which is already on its second phase. Families living in hanging shanties or in esteros in Malibay, Pasay City will soon have a home of their own. The lot for the site was sold by the Bank of the Philippine Islands at a very generous discount.

Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales' Pondo ng Pinoy will help fund this project.

HFHP is also one of the many organizations that responded to calamity that hounded Southern Leyte in February. HFHP partners with GMA Kapuso Foundation in building 100 homes and eight classrooms in Liloan town; the Philippine National Red Cross and the Department of Social Welfare and Development asked the help of HFHP to build a total of 230 homes in Bgy. Magbagacay, St. Bernard; and Petron will help build one school building in San Francisco town.

The success of its Peace Build program led to another grant from the European Union amounting to one million euros following the first fund it received years ago. This grant is for an expanded Peace Build, called "Build for Peace," which will build houses for 1,000 families in former conflict areas of Muslim Mindanao, as well as fund various community development projects.

Values education

Jugo and Campos both echo the same sentiment that HFHP's commitment is not limited to providing homes. "We're here to help build communities."

Aside from houses and school buildings, HFHP also build community centers with funding from the Angelo King Foundation. This serves as a venue not only for socializing with neighbors but for values and livelihood training and medical programs.

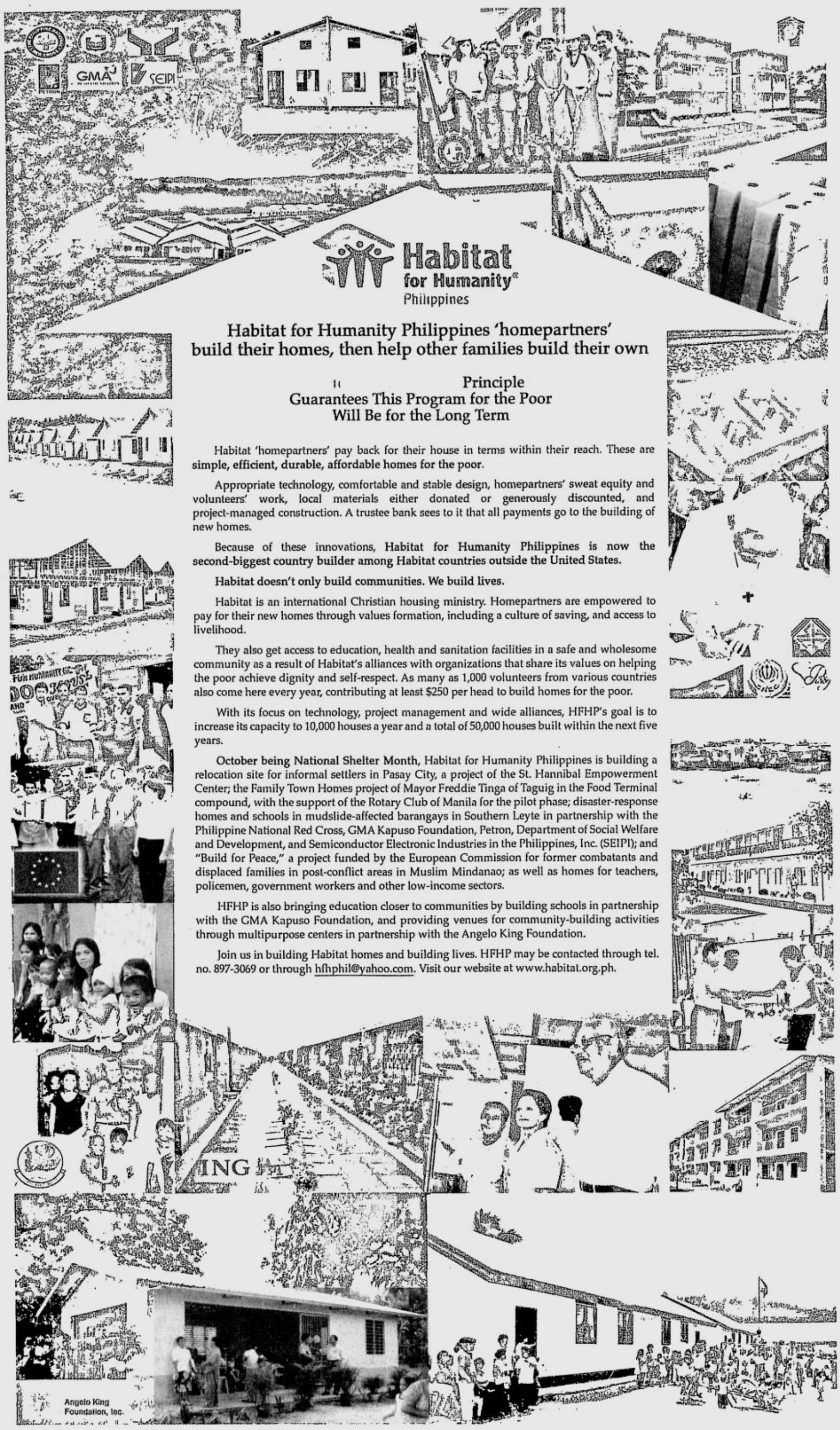
Education is also a primary concern for HFHP.

"What do we do for education?," asked Jugo. "Because we maintain clean surroundings, there must be clean water, septic tanks, and most importantly we want our partners to cultivate the culture of savings."

Jugo is optimistic in reaching their target within the next five years . Habitat Philippines is the largest country builder in the entire Habitat network outside the U.S.

This is a testament how Filipinos recognize the need to help fellow countrymen. Working hand in hand with others is one of the primary reasons it has been successful in the nearly two decades of presence in the Philippines.

"We like everybody to help," said Jugo. "We want to think that we never compete to help the poor."



Habitat builds more homes in National Shelter Month

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PHILIPPINES has stepped up its housing projects in various regions to help mark October as National Shelter Month under a presidential executive order. Habitat builds "simple, efficient, durable and affordable homes for the poor" in a worldwide program that emphasizes financial sustainability and values formation.

One of these housing projects is the second phase of the St. Hannibal Project which is a relocation site in Malibay, Pasay City for informal settlers living in dangerous areas of the city. A 6,012-square-meter lot was sold by its owner, Bank of the Philippine Islands at a deep discount to the Social Housing Finance Program, which will sell it to the homepartners under the community mortgage program. The project's proponent is St. Hannibal Empowerment Center (SHEC), an NGO founded by the Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus, with Habitat handling the house-building component. This phase will build 346 homes for a total cost of P35 million.

A second project consists of 108 homes in medium-rise cluster housing units to be built at the compound of Food Terminal Inc. (FTI), in Taguig City, for the informal settlers living there. The main proponent is the city government with donations from, among others, the Rotary Club of Manila which raised one million pesos for this project to mark its centennial.

VICE President Noli de Castro with Fr. Dexter Prudenciano, Executive Director of the St. Hannibal Empowerment Center during the awarding of 'Certificates of Participation' to the home partner families.

A third project actually are three construction sites in barangays affected by the mudslides in Southern Leyte, consisting of eight classrooms and 100 homes in Liloan town, with GMA Kapuso Foundation as main proponent; 130 homes in Bgy. Magbagacay in St. Bernard, Philippine National Red Cross as proponent, and another 100 homes in the same barangay, Dept. of Social Welfare and Development; and one schoolbuilding in San Francisco town, Petron as proponent.

Another major project is HFHP's "Build for Peace" program, which will include homes, schools, water and power installations and sanitation facilities in 18 municipalities in Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City. Homes are being built for more than 1,000 former combatants and displaced families in the Mindanao conflict. The funds come from a grant of one million euros to HFHP from the European Community.

Habitat for Humanity Philippines began its operations in 1988 and has so far built some 15,000 homes in more than 100 communities in 20 provinces and 29 cities. Together with the U.S. and Guatemala, it is among the top three country builders under Habitat for Humanity International which was founded in 1976 by Millard Fuller and his wife, Linda, in Georgia, USA. An international Christian housing ministry, Habitat operates in over 100 countries and is now building its next 200,000 homes.

Habitat projects are made sustainable by its "a house for a house" operating principle where "homepartners" are willing to pay an affordable amortization that goes to a trust fund which will give another family the chance to build its own home.

In this way, HFHP builds communities through alliances in equal partnerships. The homepartners are also provided with a support system that includes community organizing and values formation including a culture of savings, access to livelihood, education, health, safety and environment.

The houses are built with the use of appropriate technology from materials donated or sold at a generous discount by sponsors, and supported by local and foreign funders, and the labor from the homepartners' "sweat equity" and volunteer workers.

To date, HFHP has built 15,000 homes and is targeting a total of 50,000 houses in the next five years.

European Union awards €1-M grant for new Peace Build

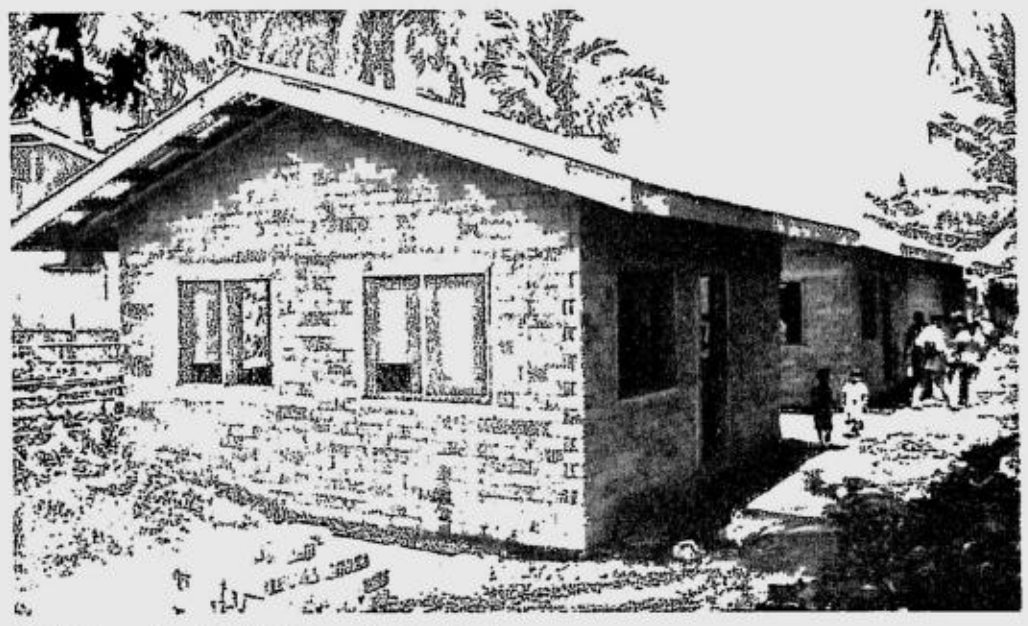
THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) HAS awarded a grant of 1 million euros to Habitat for Humanity Philippines for its Build for Peace project. This will cover various peace and development communities (PDCs), which are communities of ex-combatants of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) as well as Christian sympathizers, in eighteen local government units in the provinces of Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, and General Santos City.

The project's components include using the save and build and building-in-stages approaches, build decent, durable, and affordable shelter for 1,000 ex-combatants and internally displaced peoples. HFH Philippines will design, implement and develop livelihood projects in each PDC, including the establishment of savings-mobilization mechanisms. The project will also improve access to water, environmental sanitation facilities and such services as health and electricity, as well as strengthen existing structures for peace and development, and institutionalize partnerships from the community up to the provincial levels, including the mainstreaming of PDC plans in the municipal and provincial development plans.

This is the third "Peace Build" of HFHP. The first Peace Build was in the village of Pagangan in Aleosan, Cotabato, and was implemented by the Midsayap affiliate. Land for the site was donated by an ex-MNLF commander, who envisioned a community for both Muslim and Christians. Fifty-eight houses were constructed by the end of 2001.

Another Peace Build was held in Barangay Bunao, Tupi, South Cotabato. Ex-MNLF combatants had formed a cooperative which mobilized their savings to purchase a three-fourth hectare of land for housing. The General Santos City Habitat affiliate worked with UNMDP-3 to help the cooperative build the houses. Using the Save and Build approach, eighteen houses were constructed beginning in July 2004. The other two-thirds of the funds for house construction came from the Presidential Social Fund, two petroleum companies, and from the repayments of the affiliate's other homepartners.

As with other Peace Builds, it is hoped that the Build for Peace project will result not just in decent, durable and affordable houses and in decent communities where the former victims of the armed conflict can share in the fruits of development but also in helping build a just and lasting peace in Mindanao.



A CIB house in a 'Build for Peace' site in Mindanao.

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VISUAL ARTS

MAESTRO Orobia and sons

Orobias at Heart Center

Maestro Orobia and his sons—Abe, Bastee and Juan—are having a family exhibit, "Orobia," at the Heart Gallery of the Philippine Heart Center, until Nov. 4. Although the exhibit opened last Oct. 16, the formal opening will be on Oct. 28. Orobia is a leading impressionist painter with collectors from around the world. His sons have established themselves as emerging young artists, especially Abe, who is taking up his Master of Fine Arts at the UST Graduate School. The Orobias are also well known for holding art lessons for children and adults and for supporting the religious and community projects of the Sisters of Mary Mother of Grace Congregation and the Holy Spirit Lord of Pardon Worldwide Missionaries. Call 0926-3165554 or e-mail orobiakpp@yahoo.com.

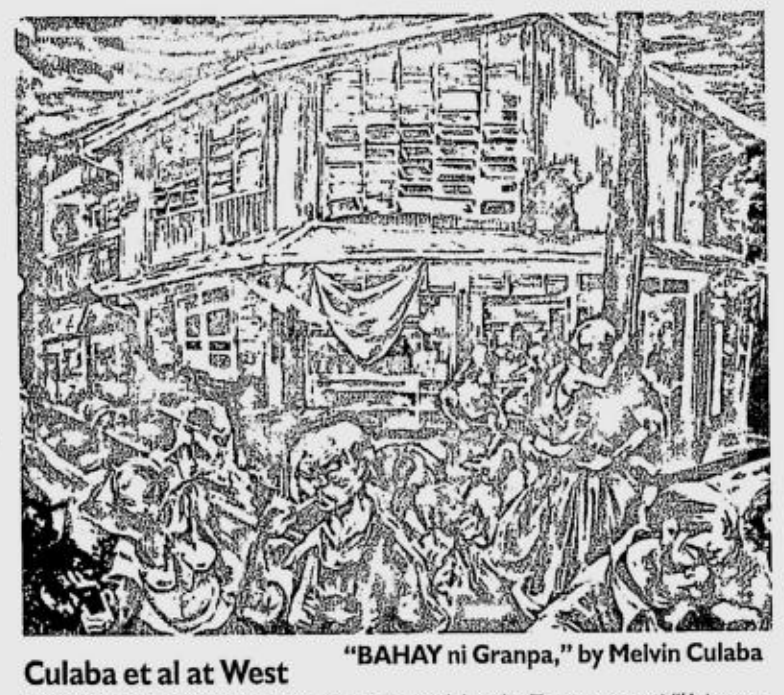
"PAETE Mother and Child," by Maestro Orobia

Garibay in Davao

Award-winning artist Manny Garibay is holding a homecoming one-man show at Genluna Gallery in Davao City until Oct. 31. "Kinabuhi" showcases life's idiosyncrasies through paintings in acrylic etched with the artist's adeptness in drawing, absolute control of color and composition. Garibay's most recent works portray life's sensibilities and varying fantasies, both tame and wild, as well as more poignant pieces evocative of *kinabuhi*, which means the daily grind of life. Genluna Gallery is at 12 Gen. Luna St., Davao City. Call (082) 2262104 or log on to www.genlunagallery.com.

'Himala' at Retrato

Retrato of the Filipinas Heritage Library features a two-part exhibit on two seemingly contradictory Philippine belief systems. The Alcove features Philippine lower mythology's gallery of rogues in "Katakot-takot," a photo exhibit depicting creatures, in literature like *aswang, kapre* and *nuno sa punso*. The exhibit runs until Oct. 28. The Filipiniana section presents "Himala ng mga Birhen," honoring three women: the Virgin of La Naval, Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo, R.V.M., and Sr. Mary Christine Tan, R.G.S. Call 8921801 or 8921810.



"BAHAY ni Granpa," by Melvin Culaba

Culaba et al at West

Melvin Culaba, Dennis Mallares Gonzales and Juanito Torres present "Katas ng Masa," Oct. 24-Nov. 11, at West Gallery, West Avenue, QC. Organized by Alfred Esquillo, the exhibit showcases the way the three artists see the different social mechanisms around them at play: from Culaba's view of growing up in Baclaran to Torres' take on religiosity and Gonzales' transformation of vastly different images into visual narratives. Call 4110336/9221 or 3721194.

AARON Bautista

Bautista at Philamlife

Aaron Bautista, an Angono-based visual artist, mounts his seventh one-man show, "Concrete Perception," today until Nov. 3 at the Philamlife Center, United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila. The exhibit features abstract paintings in mixed media. Call 0927-4075425 or 0916-2822447.

Impy Pilapil at Alliance Française

"OCEANIC Exuberance," by Impy Pilapil

Sculptor and serigrapher Impy Pilapil presents "Oceanic Exuberance," Oct. 23-Nov. 23, at the Alliance Française Total Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati. The artist has prepared a joyful installation on how the ocean, in its unique way, has touched her life and her art to elicit joy as well as peace. Elegantly conceived and meticulously executed in lustrous combinations of glass and acrylic, each piece juxtaposes textures and glowing contrasts that flow into vibrant oceanic forms. Call 8957585/7441.

"MARKET Scene," by Mike Herrera

Herrera at Eastwood

The Art Discovery and Learning Foundation Inc. and Eastwood City present Mike Herrera's one-man exhibit featuring landscapes, cityscapes, still lifes and human interest, until Oct. 31 at the Cinema Lobby, 4/F, Citywalk 2, Eastwood City, Libis, QC. Call 3762196 or 3762337.

'Zero-in 2006' at various museums

"Fuzzy Logic: Art and Science," opens Oct. 25 at the Lopez Museum. It's the museum's contribution to "Zero In 5," a collaborative project of Ateneo Art Gallery, Ayala Museum, Bahay Tsinoy, Lopez Memorial Museum and Museo Pambata. Call 6312417.

"FREDDIE Aguilar" by Bencab. A small collection of works from Ben Cabrera's "Rock Sessions" is currently on view at SM Megamall. Call Gallery Nine at 6877302.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Robin rules

He wins the movie crowd and, hopefully, Regine's heart

By Nini Valera

IF THE ROMANTIC-comedy "Till I Met You" continues to make cash registers ring, male lead Robin Padilla offers a pretty reasonable assumption.

"All our Muslim brothers left their homes even if it's Ramadan to watch the movie," he says. "They also did their part in controlling piracy."

Traditionally, Muslims come in full force to watch Fernando Poe Jr. movies. It's no surprise they would do the same to the movies of Robin, who has converted to Islam.

But count in the chemistry between Robin and Regine as well.

Make that on and off-screen.

The stars kept joking and flirting with each other on Monday during the movie's victory party. Ask Robin about his feelings for Regine and he will say he wants to marry her even if she has confessed to being in a relationship with another man.

"Liezl (Robin's wife) is here, and she would be the one to ask Regine if she'd be my wife," says Robin.

Regine continues to brush off Robin's verbal advances, but admits that she's flattered to be pursued by two men.

"*Gusto ko itong pinagaagawan ako* (I like it when men fight over me)," she says, jokingly.

Earlier, Regine told INQUIRER Entertainment that she felt Robin's marriage proposal was serious. "I have a sixth sense about these things. I feel that he was not joking."

Robin has been married three times, two ending in divorce. Under Muslim laws, Robin is allowed four wives as long as he could afford to keep them.

But Robin and Regine would be parting ways to move on to other projects. According to the grapevine, Regine is shooting a movie with Aga Muhlach under another film outfit. Robin would start taping for his action-drama series for GMA 7, which would pair him with Angel Locsin.

Meanwhile, the Robin-Regine starrer grossed P40 million during its first six-day run.

A co-production between GMA Films and Viva Films, the movie opened last Oct. 11 in 150 theaters nationwide, with a first day take of P6.4 million.

The figures were supplied by GMA Films' president Annette Abrogar last week, based on sales reports culled by Viva Films' booking office.

Abrogar told INQUIRER Entertainment that she expects to hit more than P100 million before the

ROBIN/ E3

ROBIN Padilla and Regine Velasquez: Hot couple on and off screen

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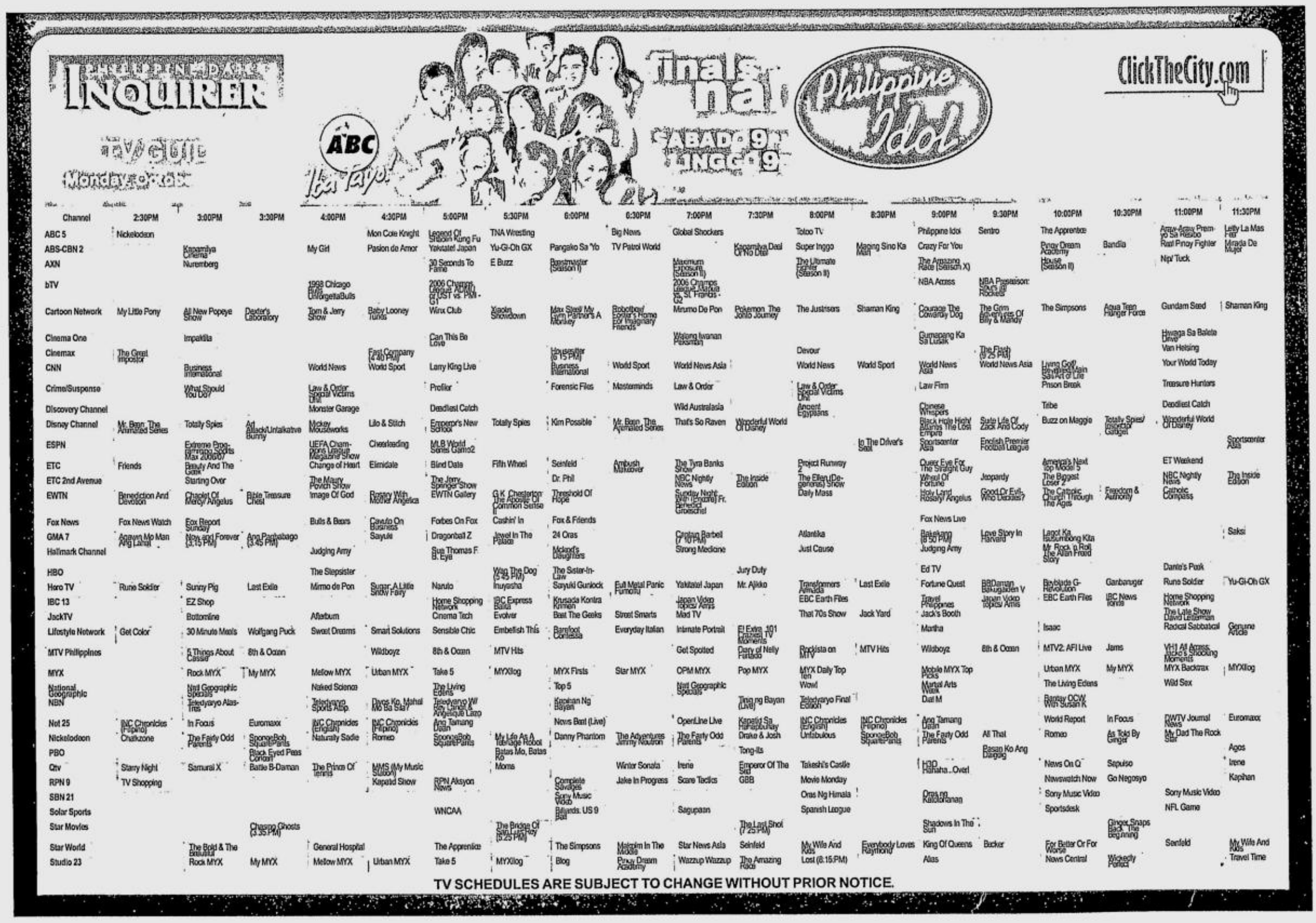

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Recent performances evaluated

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
MTRCB PG-13
1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
2 THE BANQUET
MTRCB PG-13
1:15, 3:55, 6:35, 9:30
3 BARNYARD
MTRCB GP 12:50, 2:50, 4:50
THE DEPARTED
MTRCB R-13 8:50 10:00
4 THE GUARDIAN
MTRCB PG-13
1:00, 4:00, 7:00 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
MTRCB PG-13
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
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OF LATE, A NUMBER OF PERformances on TV and in the movies have caught our attention, because they illustrate either positive or negative elements that affect the craft and art of acting.

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PG-13
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:00
PG-13
3 THE DEPARTED
1:55, 8:15
R-13
THE GUARDIAN
5:20, 11:20
PG-13
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Regine Velasquez for her gutsy performance in her current starrer, "Till I Met You." Today, however, we would like to point out a negative aspect to her portrayal that she could think about and rectify, if she wants to come up with even better performances in the future.

That negative element is the self-conscious way that Regine uses her mouth in performance. If she bothers to study a tape of her scenes in her latest movie, she will see that she keeps moving her lips in different ways—to look cute, to indicate what she's thinking, to react to what her coactor is saying or doing, etc.

This is a nervous, self-conscious mannerism that is frowned upon in the acting trade, because it betrays the actor *indicating* rather than *being*.

In other words, the performer is semaphoring his or her *attitude* about the scene at hand, when what viewers really need to see is the *character* behaving in a natural manner on the screen.

Through "indicating" mannerisms like Regine's "lip reactions," the performer is visually commenting on the scene, and this is a no-no because the actor *isn't* the important element in acting, it's the character he or she is playing.

The sooner Regine realizes this and does something about it (namely, concentrate on the character she's playing, not on herself), the faster she'll develop into a truly competent actress.

On the other hand, in "First Day High," teen lead **Kim Chiu's** problem is even more basic: She has a hard time enunciating her lines.

She's too raw and untrained a performer to realize that acting is *communication*, so clarity of diction and utterance is of prime importance.

In a number of scenes, we wince as we listen to Kim struggling to make herself understood, and failing much of the time.

This is another example of a young talent being thrust in front of the movie camera before she's ready to do really professional work.

To be fair to herself and her future career prospects, Kim should take time off to work on her enunciation problem *before* she acts again on TV or in the movies. With the help of a good diction coach, she should be able to lick her problem in no time at all. And, lick it, she must.

On the other hand, an excellent performance has been turned in by **Cherry Pie Picache** in the forthcoming movie, "Kaleldo."

Ironically, the film was completed many months ago, but is being shown only on Nov. 1. So, Cherry Pie has to wait until next year before she can reap the nominations and perhaps even awards that her unique performance should engender.

What makes her portrayal in "Kaleldo" unique is the fact that the actress plays a lesbian without all of the tough-gal clichés that have long been attached to that kind of character through the years.

Instead, Cherry Pie opts to play the lesbian daughter of the domi-

RECENT/ E3

FACT: THE BIGGEST AND DEADLIEST CARNIVOROUS SNAKES ARE FOUND IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
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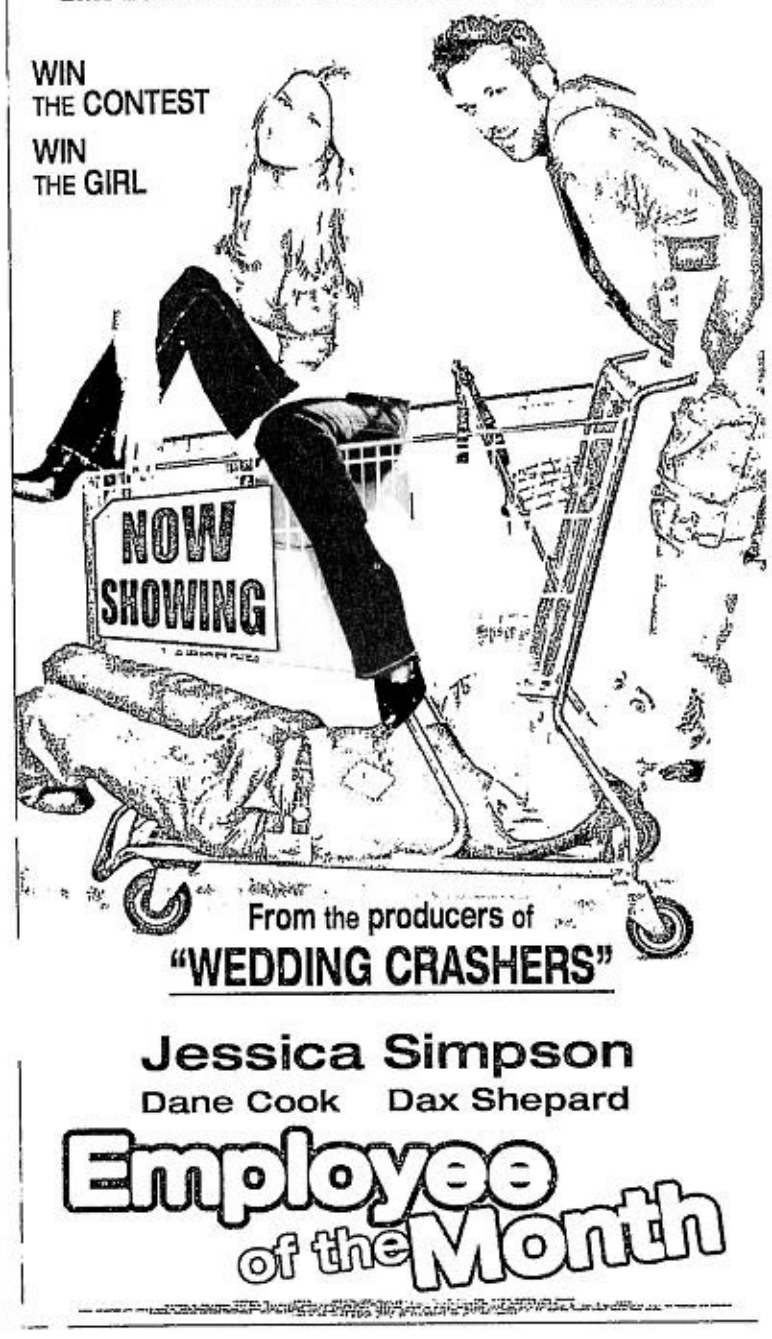
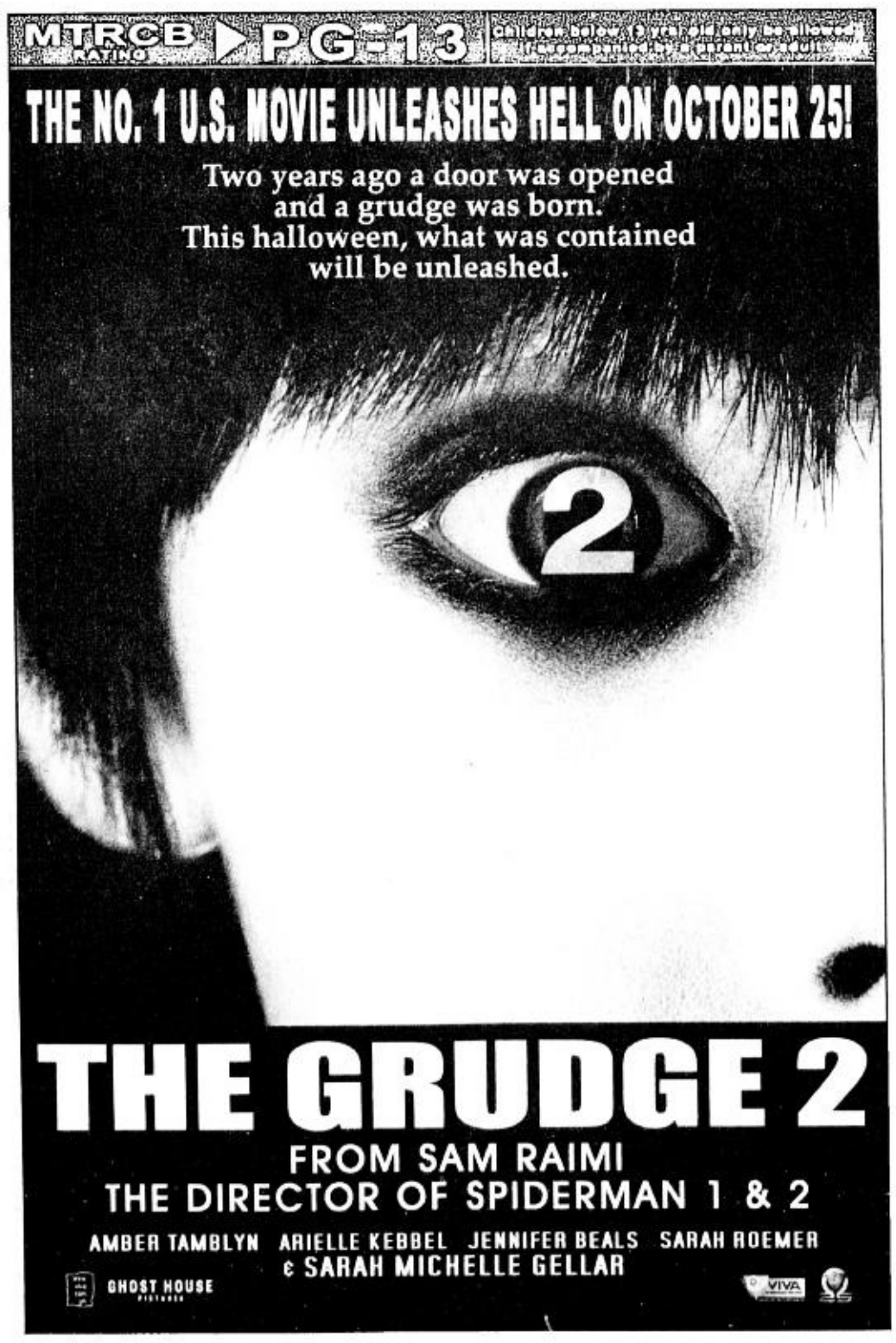
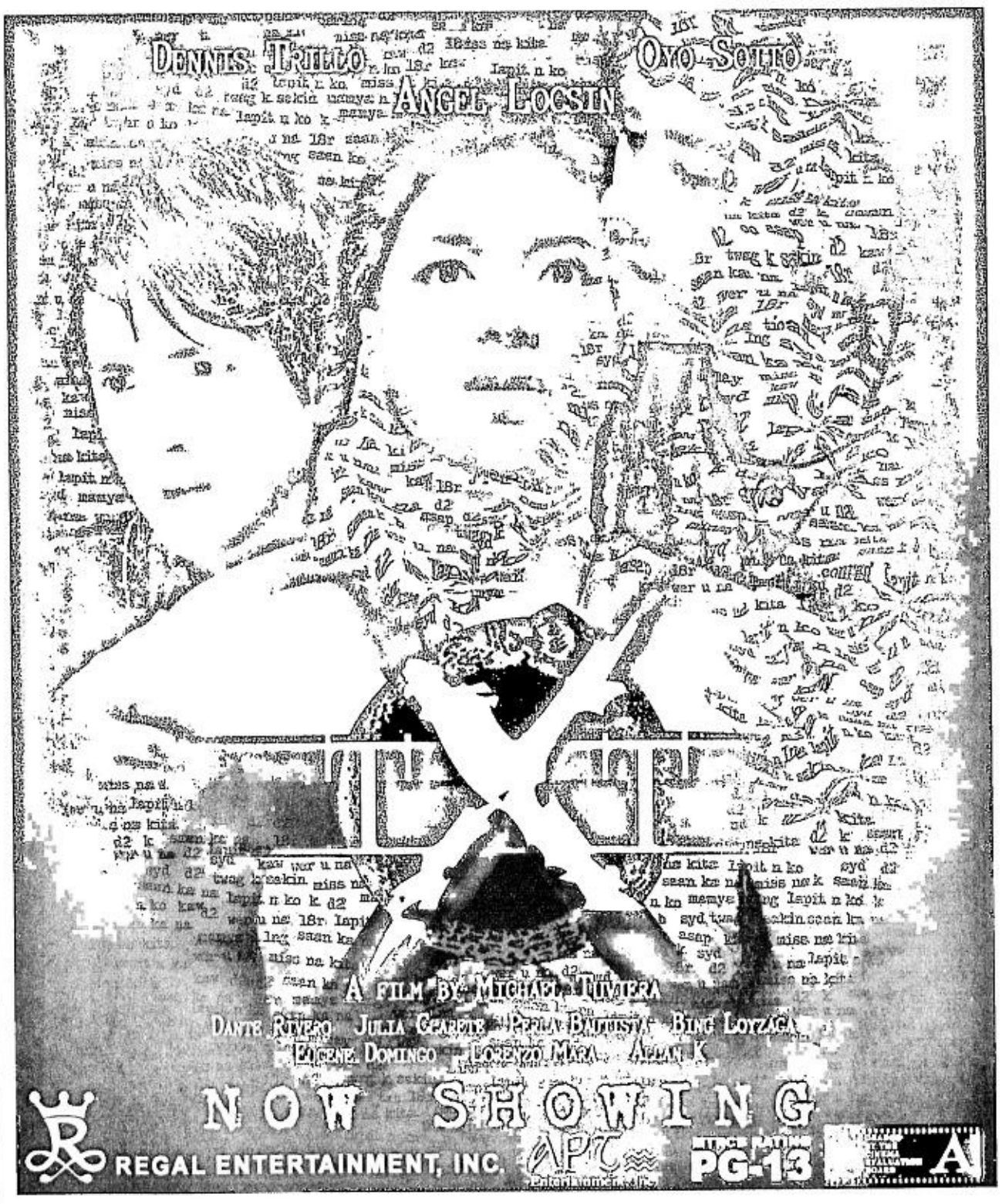






New 'Korean Invasion' to hit Manila

MINA, KOREA'S "DANCE DIVA," IS coming to Manila for two nights of sizzling performances.

The sexy model-turned-singer, who popularized the hit song "Answer the Phone," will be joined by pop balladeer Christian Bautista.

Mina will be doing two shows: at the Araneta Coliseum on Nov. 24 at 8 p.m. and at the Clark Expo, Clarkfield, Pampanga on Nov. 26, 8 p.m. Call 911-5555 or (02)926-0556.

SHOW TIME

'Popstravaganza'

Pops Fernandez serenades guests with popular OPM and contemporary hits in "Popstravaganza" at the Casino Filipino-Tagaytay's Magiting Hall on Oct. 28 at 9 p.m.

Joining her is former Smokey Mountain member Jeffrey Hidalgo.

Call (046) 413-1506 loc. 202 or 09178911066.

Tonight

Orange and Lemons with **Slave Drum** and **Skies of Ember** at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3.

Rocksteady at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas, QC.

Robin rules

From page E1

movie ends its run in four to five weeks.

She attributes the movie's success to the fact that it was the only local film that opened in theaters the other week.

"I'm happy that other local films were not against us," she says. "I think this proves that producers should help each other by not pitting movies against each other. One movie would always suffer. There are 52 weeks in a year. So why not pick a week when no other local movie would be showing?"

Abrogar has another reason to celebrate: "Till I Met You" received a B rating from the Cinema Evaluation Board, which entitles the producers to a 65-percent tax rebate.

"With this rebate, we would be breaking even with only P60 million," Abrogar says, noting that the movie cost P30 million to produce.

The film's General Patronage classification by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board has also helped fill up movie houses during the weekend, traditional family days, she adds.

She also observes that the second teamup of Robin and Regine, both in their late 30s, showed that mature love teams have a lot of mileage left in them, running counter to the prevalent trend of teen movies.

Recent...

From page E2

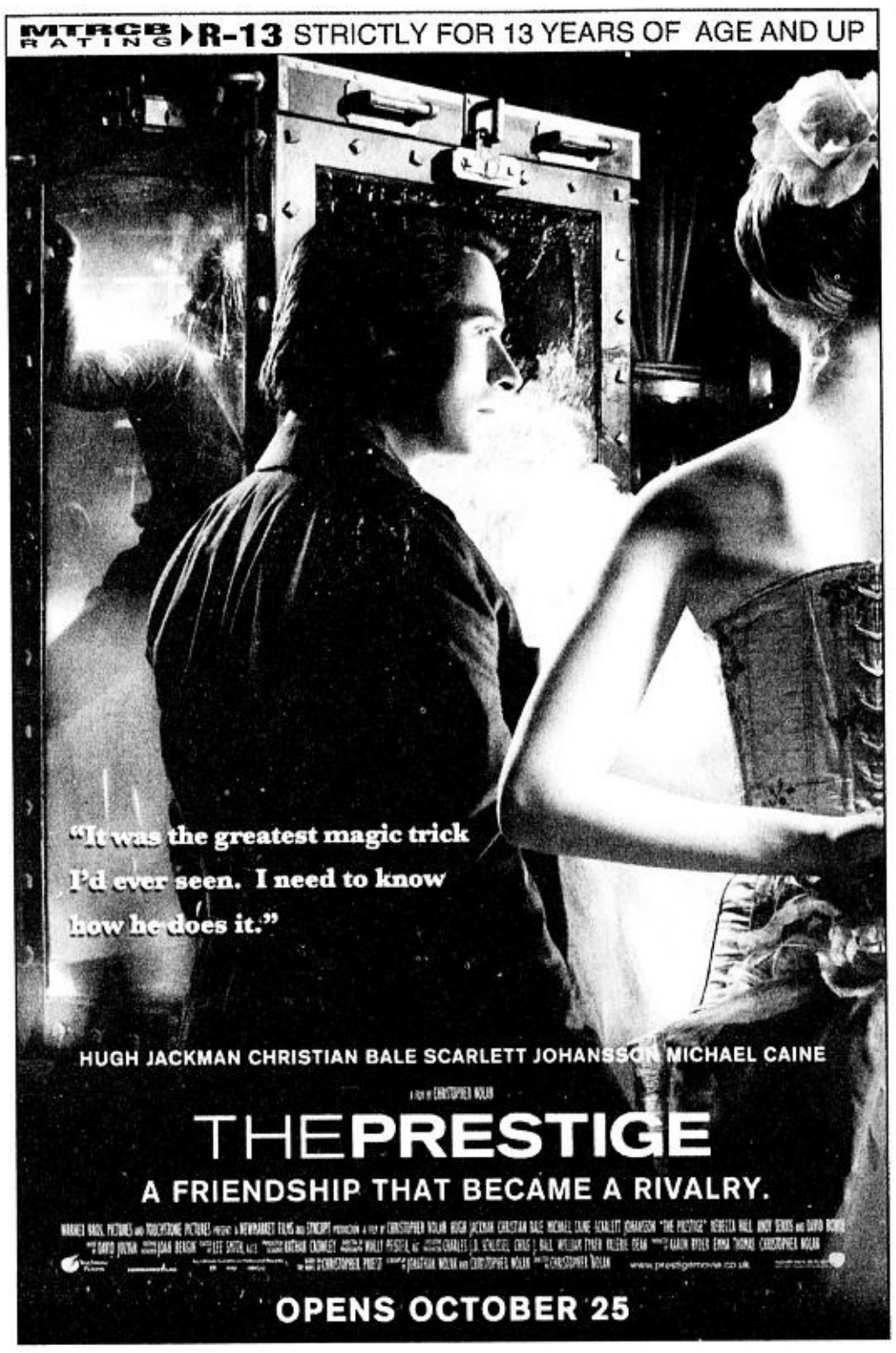
neering character portrayed by **Johnny Delgado** as a human being who's much more than just a gender-bender.

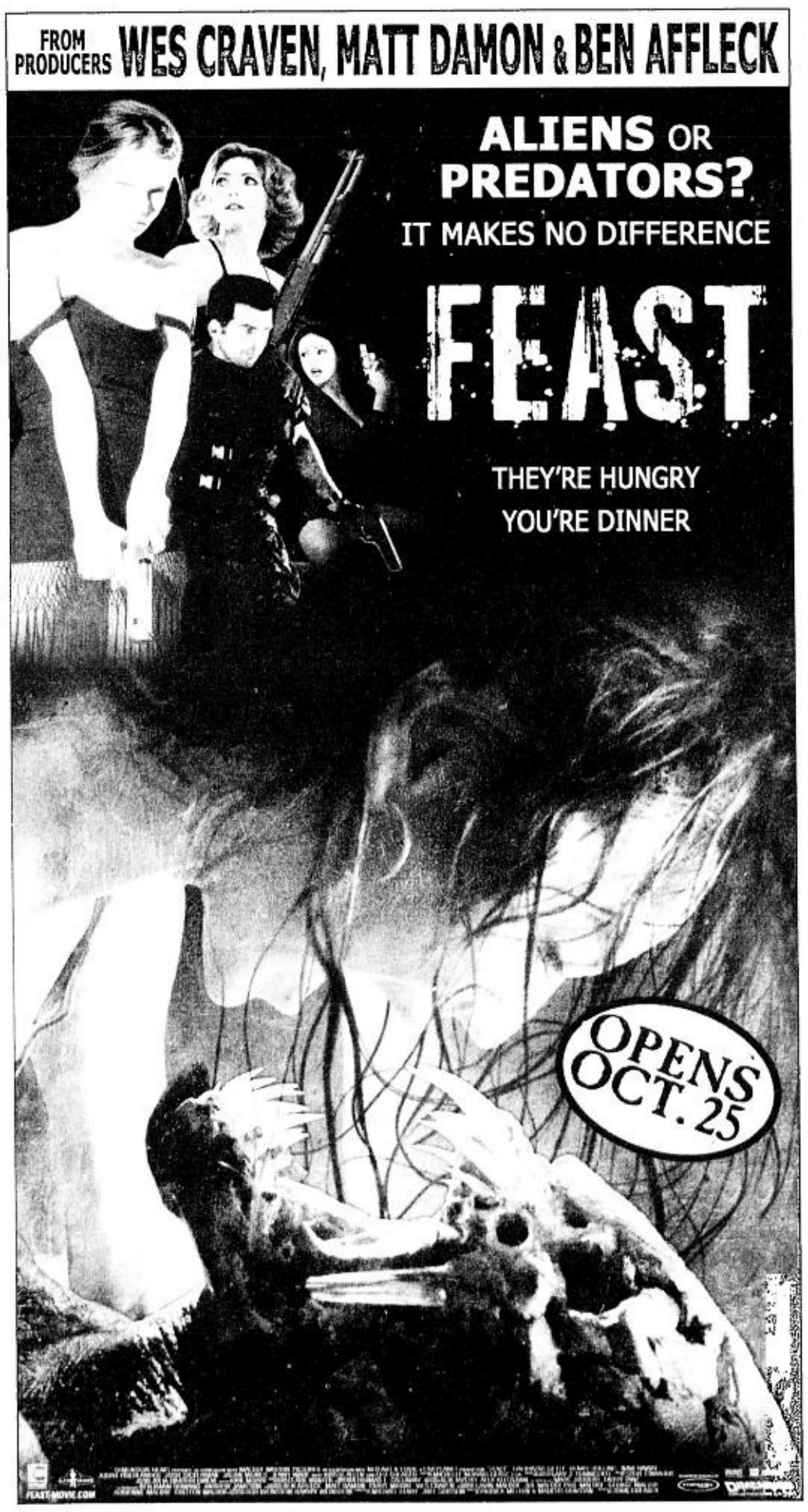
As a result, her character is richly three-dimensional, and compellingly conflicted in more than just one way, so the viewer has a lot to mull over and try to understand as Cherry Pie is creating her.

Young actors should make it a point to catch "Kaleldo" so they can learn from Cherry Pie's performance in it.

It can teach them a lot about going beyond character type, "attacking" a character from different perspectives, "being" instead of "acting," understanding people who may initially be difficult to comprehend—etc.!

In his own way, Johnny Delgado also teaches those lessons in his complex portrayal of the "cruel" and demanding father in the movie. Two compelling performances in one movie? That's a big bonus.





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SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
IMAX
T-REX
11:00AM 12:30PM 2:00PM 8:30PM 10:00PM
ANT BULLY IN 3D
3:30PM
SUPERMAN RETURNS
5:30PM Admission Price P350
1 THE BANQUET
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE DEPARTED
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
5 BARANG
6 TILL I MET YOU
PREMIERE CINEMA
TXT
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
WORLD TRADE CENTER
CENTERSTAGE
WORLD TRADE CENTER
CINEMA 1
WORLD TRADE CENTER
CINEMA 2
THE GUARDIAN
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 THE BANQUET
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 TXT
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 M6Y FIRST WEDDING
9 PULSE
10 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
11 BARANG
12 TILL I MET YOU

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 THE BANQUET
2 BARNYARD
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 THE GUARDIAN
5 MY FIRST WEDDING
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 BARANG
8 ANNAPOLIS
9 TXT
10 TILL I MET YOU
11 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
12 THE DEPARTED

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 PULSE
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 BARANG
6 THE BANQUET
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 TXT
10 THE DEPARTED
11 MY FIRST WEDDING
12 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 TXT
4 BARANG
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 MY FIRST WEDDING
9 THE DEPARTED
10 PULSE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE BANQUET
4 BARANG
5 TXT
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 BARANG
6 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 BARNYARD
9 THE BANQUET

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE BANQUET

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 THE BANQUET
2 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
3 PULSE
4 MY FIRST WEDDING
5 THE GUARDIAN
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 BARANG
8 FIRST DAY HIGH
9 TILL I MET YOU
10 THE DEPARTED
11 DEAD OR ALIVE
12 TXT

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)432251-54
1 PULSE
2 TXT
3 BARANG
4 TILL I MET YOU

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 BARANG

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 BARANG
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER

movietime PROMO
Watch and Win at SM Cinema

The Employee of the Month Poll is on!
Be one of the 10 lucky winners of Jessica Simpson's latest album, A Public Affair, from Sony BMG Music Philippines by giving us your best answer to this question about the movie:
Who do you think deserves to be the "Employee of the Month" and why?
A.) Zach Bradley B.) Vince Downey
Send in your answers together with your name, age, address and contact number to movieaddicts_smcinema@yahoo.com
All winners will be notified through phone on how to claim their prize

NOW SHOWING AT SM CINEMA
Jessica Simpson's "A Public Affairs" now available at all record bars
SONY BMG
MTRCB Rating PG-13

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 PULSE
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 BARANG
5 TXT
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
8 THE BANQUET
SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 PULSE
3 TXT
4 BARANG
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 DEAD OR ALIVE
SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 THE DEPARTED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 BARANG

LUZON
SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 BARANG
SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9037081-85
1 TXT
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 PULSE
4 FLY BOYS
5 BARANG
6 TILL I MET YOU
SM CITY LIPA
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT
3 BARANG
4 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 BARANG
SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197038-39
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 BARANG
SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 BARANG
SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-68
1 THE DEPARTED
2 BARANG
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 THE DEPARTED
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 STEP UP
5 BARANG
6 TXT
7 TILL I MET YOU
8 THE BREED

VISAYAS MINDANAO
SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 RESERVED
3 THE BREED
4 TXT
5 THE DEPARTED
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 RESERVED
8 BARANG

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 SCOOP
2 BARANG
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 PULSE
SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 BARANG
4 TALLADEGA NIGHTS

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHOWTIME Event Calendar

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROUNDUP

'Open Season' voice cast

COLUMBIA PICTURES ASSEMBLES A bunch of A-list actors to breathe life to a cast of colorful characters in the new animated adventure comedy "Open Season."

Lending their distinctive voices to the film are Martin Lawrence, Ashton Kutcher, Gary Sinise and Debra Messing.

The film is the story of Boog, a domesticated grisly bear with no survival skills whose perfect world is turned upside down when he meets Elliot, a scrawny, fast-talking mule deer.

"We reviewed many different voices," says co-director Jill Culton. "And finally, when we paired Martin Lawrence and Ashton Kutcher, lightning struck. Martin brought this terrific smooth swagger and confidence to Boog and Ashton's playful, manic energy was perfect for Elliot."

The film opens on Oct. 25.

Torn between two magicians

Scarlett Johansson finds herself torn between actors Hugh Jackman and Christian Bale in Warner Bros.' new thriller "The Prestige."

SCARLETT JOHANSSON with Hugh Jackman in "The Prestige"

Directed by Christopher Nolan, the movie revolves around the intense rivalry of two magicians, leading them on a lifelong battle for supremacy full of obsession, deceit and jealousy.

The friendly competition of Robert Angier (Jackman) and Alfred Borden (Bale) evolves into a bitter rivalry, making them fierce enemies for life and jeopardizing the lives of everyone around them.

Johansson plays Olivia, the mysterious woman who is Angier's assistant before she becomes Borden's.

The movie opens on Oct. 25.

Chinese cinema docu

The National Geographic Channel premieres "China Hollywood," a documentary of China's secret of success in the film industry.

Zhang Ziyi, Zhang Yimou, Gong Li, all well-known names behind the rise of China Hollywood.

The documentary unveils the secrets behind the phenomenal boom in Chinese movies on Oct. 28 at 9 p.m.

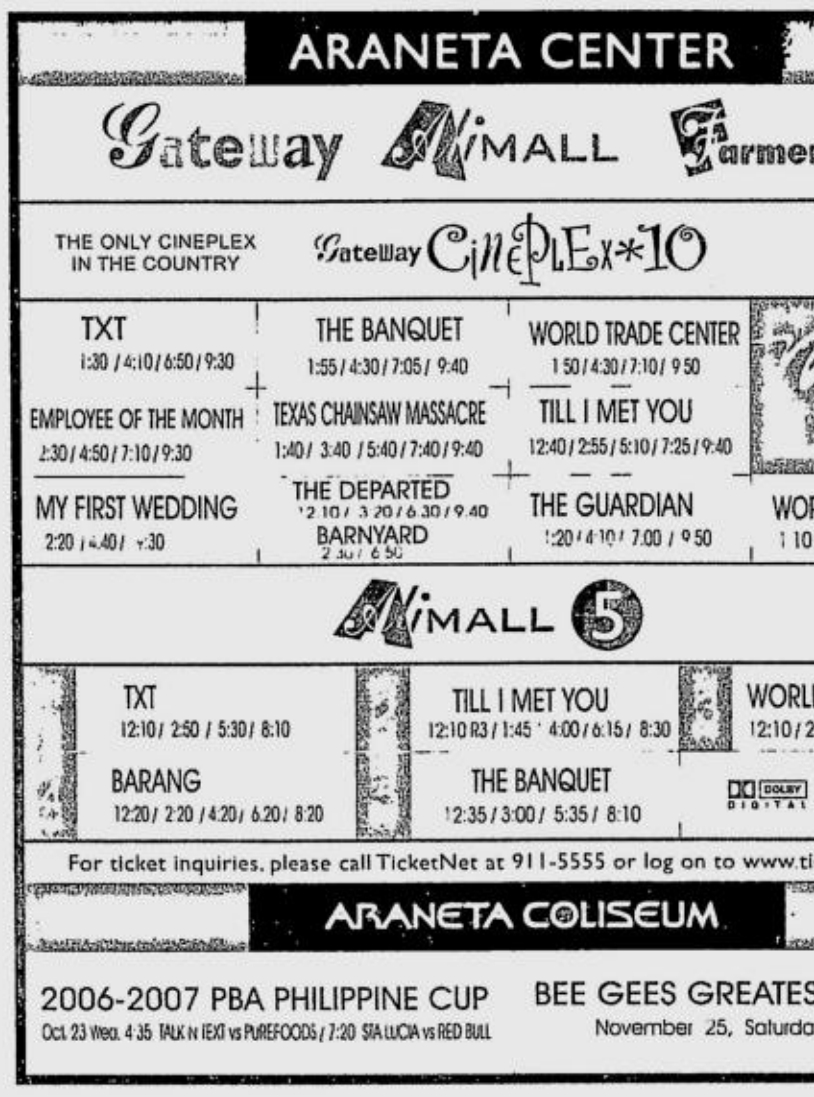
Game show's new home

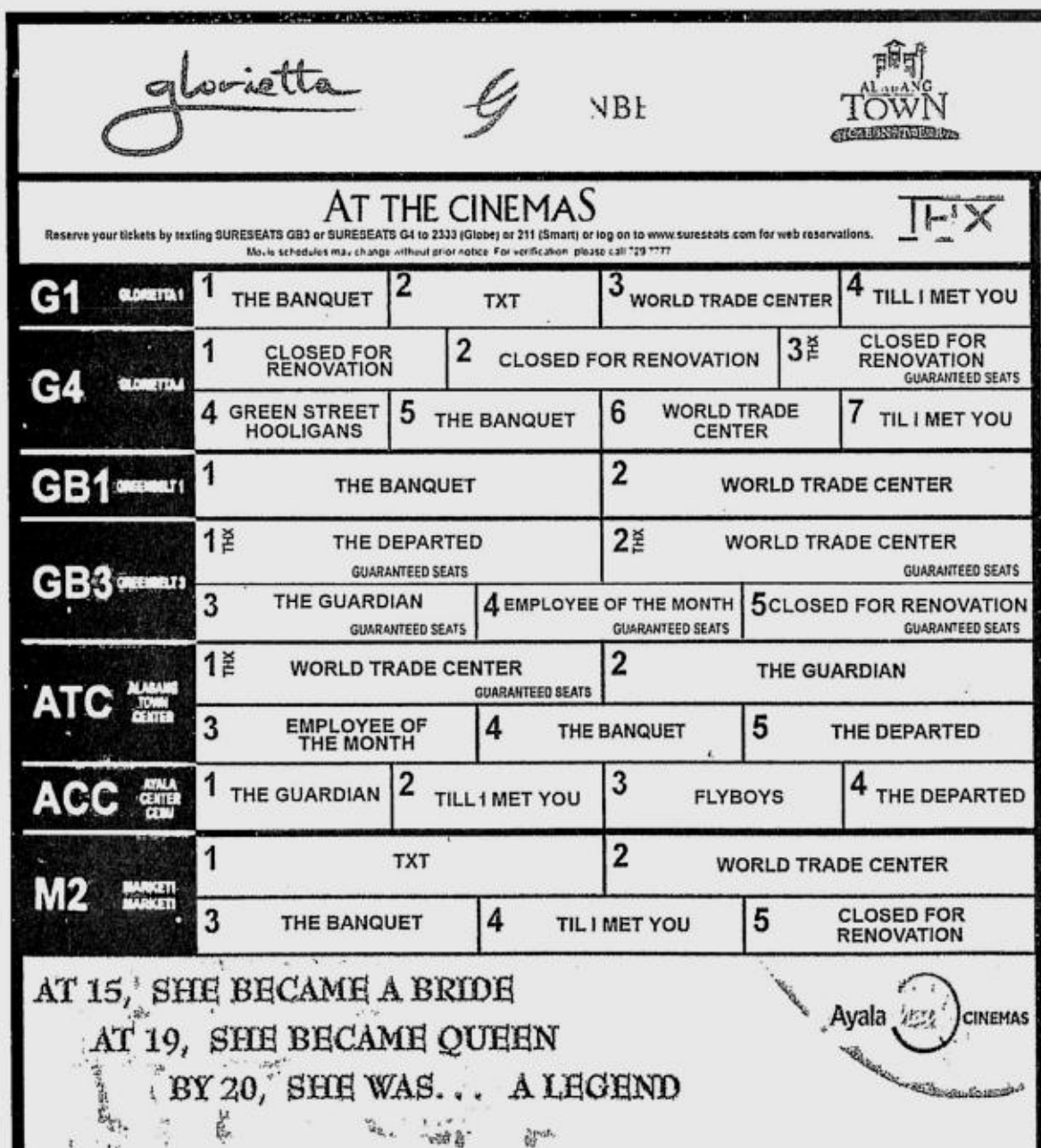
"Araw-araw Premyo sa Resibo," the daily TV game show of Premyo sa Resibo, has a new home in ABC 5.

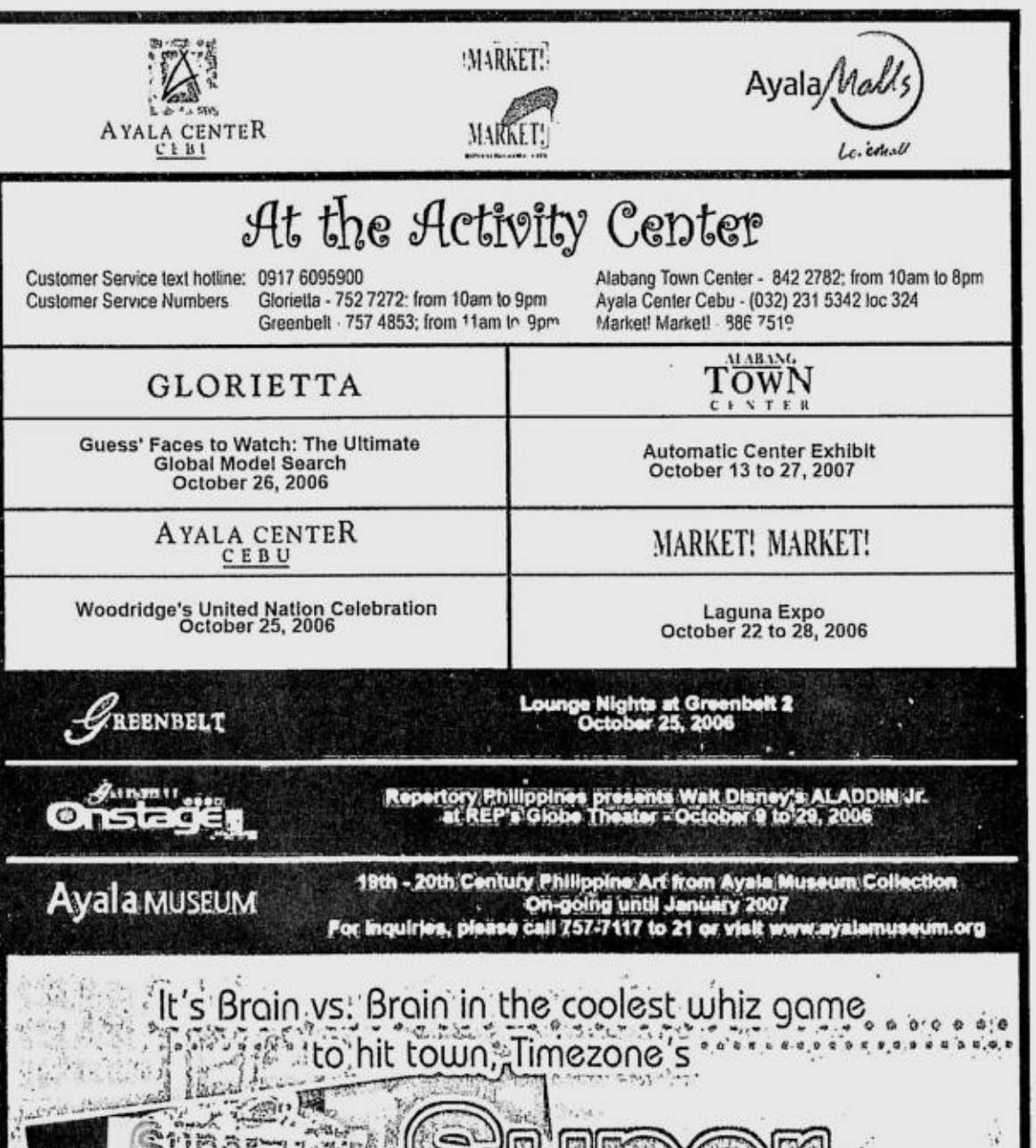
The show is an effort to encourage texters to make it a habit to ask for a receipt when they purchase goods or services and send in their official receipt details daily.

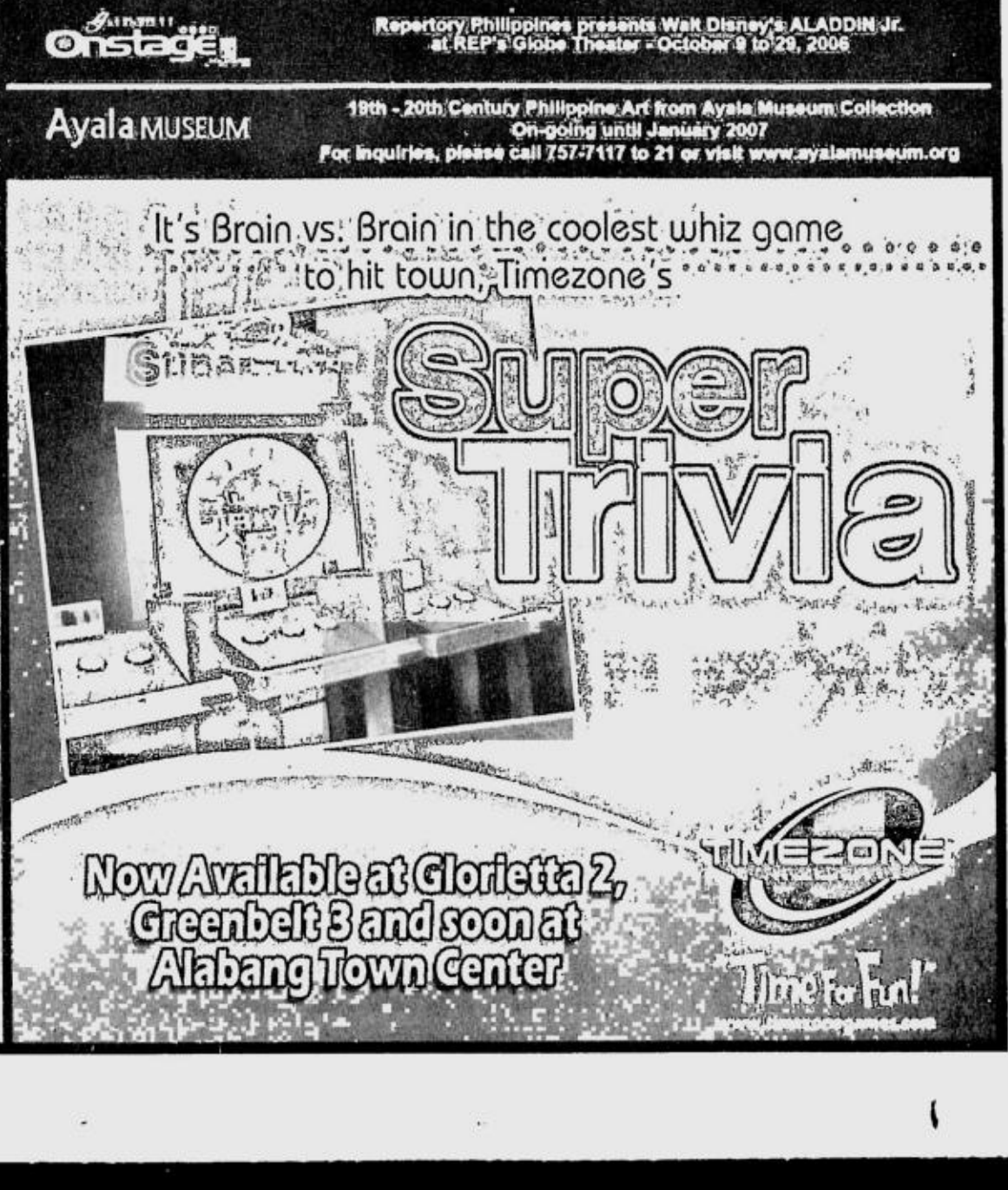
Contestants are chosen every week and each of the four daily contestants will have the chance to win up to P1 million.

The program airs daily at 11 p.m., with Teresa Garcia as host and Joel Torre and JM Rodriguez as celebrity guests.









Oops!

IN THE STORY "MEET THE BROWN LUCY LIU" (OCT. 22, 2006), the author's name, **Armin Adina**, was inadvertently dropped. Our apologies to Armin.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13 2:20,4:55,7:30,10:05	BARNYARD G 2:00,4:00	THE GUARDIAN PG13 1:40,4:30,7:20,10:10
THE BANQUET PG13 2:35,5:10,7:45,10:20	EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PG13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00	WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13 12:20,2:55,5:30, 8:05,10:30

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – FREE SEATING – MONDAY-FRIDAY.

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CINEMA 1 THE GUARDIAN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30 7:15, 10:00 PG13

CINEMA 2 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 11:00, 1:20, 3:40 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 PG13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS

...a diversentertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 WORLD TRADE CENTER 1:15, 4:05, 6:55 9:45 PG-13

CINEMA 4 THE BANQUET 11:50, 2:35, 5:15 7:55, 10:35 PG-13

CINEMA 5 WORLD TRADE CENTER 11:00, 1:50, 4:40 7:30, 10:20 PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

OCT. 20 & 21, 2006	GARY V. @ 23 "THE REPEAT"	8:30 PM
OCT. 26, 2006	BOBBY SOUL	8:00 PM
EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO CLASSICO	8:00PM
OCT. 19, 26, 2006	ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA	8:30 PM
OCT. 21, 2006	AYEN LAUREL & RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO	8:00 PM

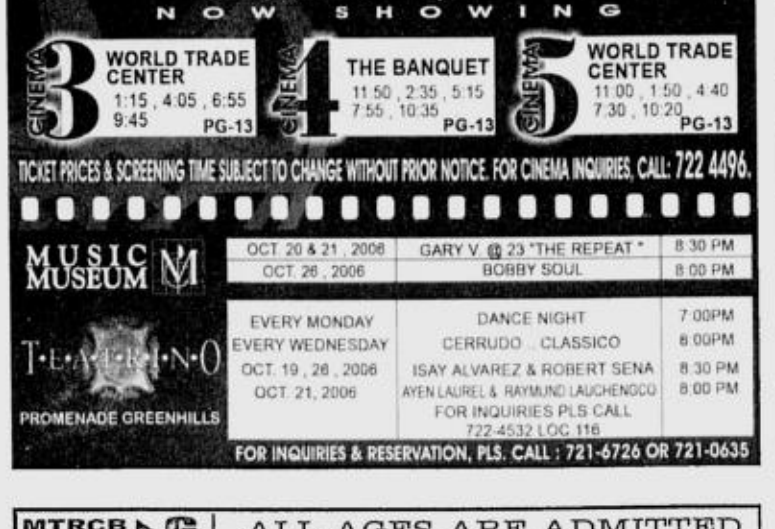
T•E•A•T•R•I•N•O PROMENADE GREENHILLS

FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

MTRCB RATING PG | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED

FROM THE CO-WRITER OF *MONSTERS* E CO-DIRECTOR OF *THE LION KING*



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MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Megaplex

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 BARNYARD / THE DEPARTED
4 THE GUARDIAN

PREMIERE: EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 THE GUARDIAN / BANYARD
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER

Starmall
EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 TXT

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8604285, 5433994

1 BARANG
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE BANQUET
4 TXT

THEATRES
tel. (041) 600-5205

TXT
TILL I MET YOU
THE BREED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

TILL I MET YOU
TXT
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest Festival Cinema
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 THE GUARDIAN
5 THE BANQUET
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 THE DEPARTED
8 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
9 BARANG
10 TXT

Blue Wave Marquiston
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 TXT
2 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TILL I MET YOU

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 BANQUET
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT
5 BARANG

Marketplace
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 THE DEPARTED
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

Masagana Cinema
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 BARANG

Center Mall Cinema
Bagulo Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Bagulo City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 TILL I MET YOU

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 BARANG

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237 7007

1 TXT
2 FLY BOYS

Eastwood Cinemas
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 THE BANQUET
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 BANYARD / THE GUARDIAN
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Cinema 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 THE DEPARTED
3 THE BREED
4 TXT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 THE BREED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 THE DEPARTED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 POSSESSED BY EVIL
2 THE DEPARTED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 BARANG
2 BABASAGING KRISTAL
3 MAPAG BIGAY
4 THE DEPARTED

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 PERLAS
3 THE DEPARTED
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL
5 TXT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TXT

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 BARANG
2 DEAD OR ALIVE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 687-8116

1 MY FIRST WEDDING • THX 1:00 3:00 5:00	6 TXT 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER 11:30 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00	7 TILL I MET YOU 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 THE GUARDIAN 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00	8 BARNYARD 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
4 THE DEPARTED 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00	9 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
5 THE BANQUET 1:50 4:35 7:20 10:00	10 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 528-7808 to 12

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00	
2 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	5 THE GUARDIAN 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
3 TXT 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50	6 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50
4 TILL I MET YOU 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50	7 THE BANQUET 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 BARNYARD 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	5 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
2 TILL I MET YOU 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00	6 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
3 THE BANQUET 12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00	7 THE GUARDIAN 12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER 1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00	8 TXT 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TXT
5 THE BANQUET

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2570 PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE BREED	1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU	2 THE BANQUET
3 RESERVE	3 TILL I MET YOU
4 RESERVE	4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

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STA. ROSA (049) 857-2000 LIPA (043) 312-5876

1 THE DEPARTED	1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT	2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU	3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL	4 TILL I MET YOU

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2126 (046) 416-1332 ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 PULSE	1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT	3 TXT
4 TILL I MET YOU	4 PULSE

IMUS (046) 975-3838 (046) 471-6168 STARMILLS (045) 975-1927 (045) 981-5270

1 THE BANQUET	1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT	2 TXT
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER	3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TILL I MET YOU	4 THE BREED
	5 PULSE
	6 FLY BOYS

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 470-0453 ILOILO (033) 336-8076

1 THE DEPARTED	1 THE DEPARTED
2 STEP UP	2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU	3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE BREED	4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 TXT	
6 FLY BOYS	

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Atoy

- 22 years old
- Winner: North/Central Luzon Leg

"I want to be a Rockista because I love music."

Levanic

- 25 years old
- Winner: Western Visayas Leg

"Feeling ko, astig maging Rockista."

Chuck

- 26 years old
- Winner: Central/Western Visayas Leg

"Being a Rockista means I have a travel ticket for my songs."

Nono

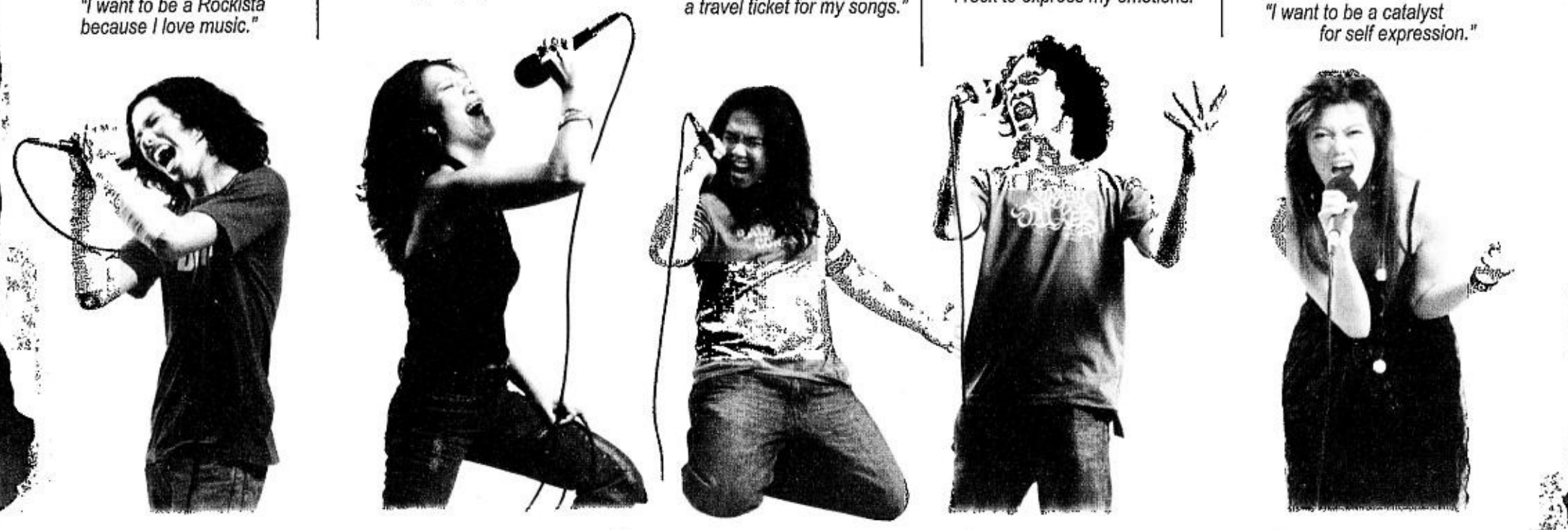
- 22 years old
- Winner: South Luzon Leg

"I rock to express my emotions."

Princess

- 25 years old
- Winner: North/Eastern Mindanao Leg

"I want to be a catalyst for self expression."



Philippine Rock's Most Wanted

Hunter

- 19 years old
- Winner: GMA/Central Luzon Leg

"Nasa dugo ko maging Rockista."

Bojo

- 19 years old
- Co-Winner: GMA/South Luzon Leg

"I wanna defy the rules of rock 'n roll."

Alvi

- 19 years old
- Co-Winner: GMA/South Luzon Leg

"I want to show the world my talent."

Clayton

- 30 years old
- Winner: Central/Eastern Visayas Leg

"I wanna be famous."

Earl

- 19 years old
- Winner: North/Western Mindanao Leg

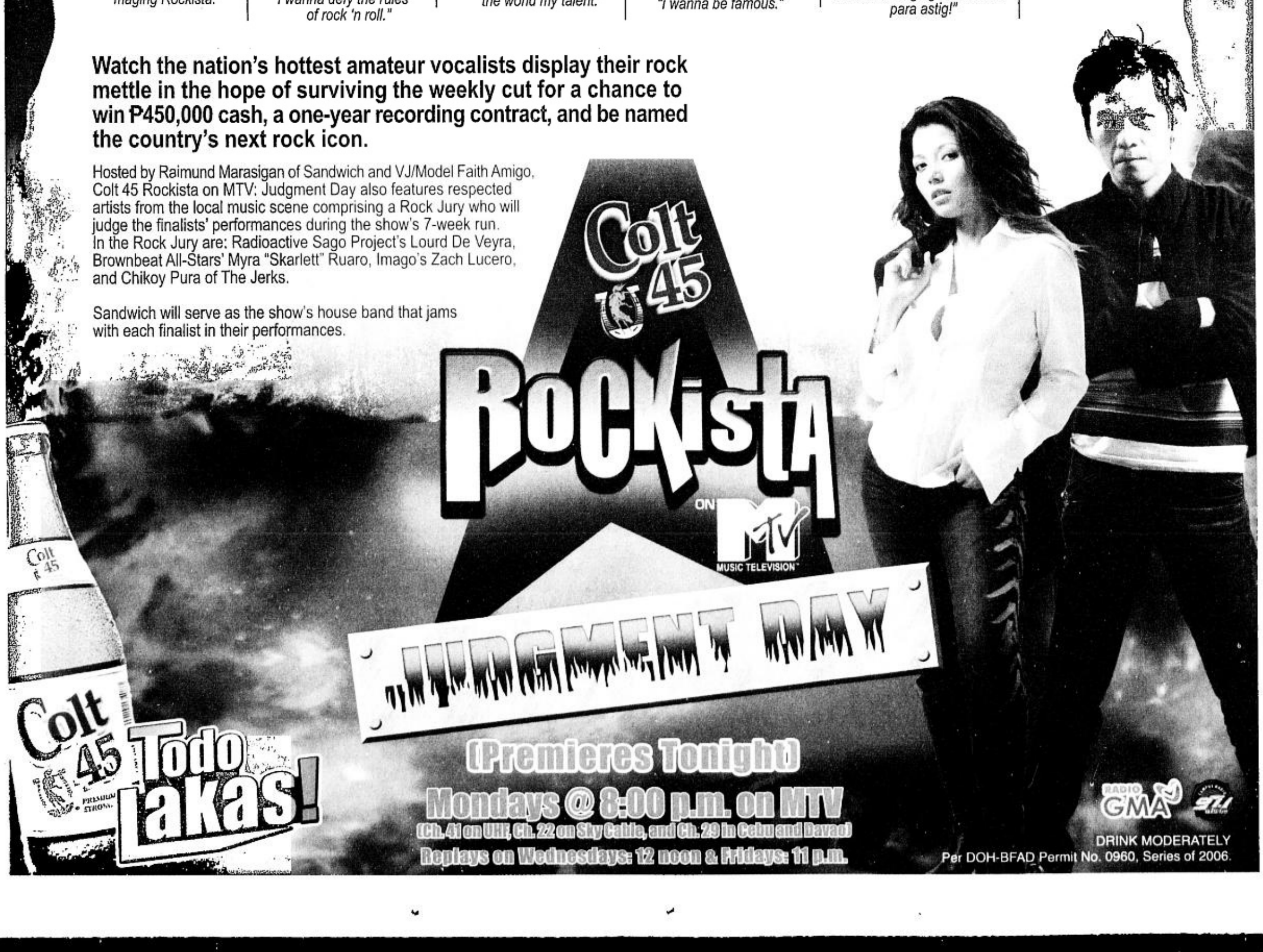
"Gusto ko maging Rockista… para astig!"

J

- 22 years old
- Winner: South Mindanao Leg

"I want to be famous."

Watch the nation's hottest amateur vocalists display their rock mettle in the hope of surviving the weekly cut for a chance to win ₱450,000 cash, a one-year recording contract, and be named the country's next rock icon.

Hosted by Raimund Marasigan of Sandwich and VJ/Model Faith Amigo, Colt 45 Rockista on MTV: Judgment Day also features respected artists from the local music scene comprising a Rock Jury who will judge the finalists' performances during the show's 7-week run. In the Rock Jury are: Radioactive Sago Project's Lourd De Veyra, Brownbeat All-Stars' Myra "Skarlett" Ruaro, Imago's Zach Lucero, and Chikoy Pura of The Jerks.

Sandwich will serve as the show's house band that jams with each finalist in their performances.